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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 39**

**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Sheryl Williams Stapleton**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING A STUDY OF CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**

**WHEREAS, in 1974, the Public School Finance Act included a separate cost differential for vocational education; and**

**WHEREAS, in 1976, this separate cost differential for vocational education was amended out of the Public School Finance Act and thereafter accounted for by an increase in the cost differential for grades seven through twelve; and**

**WHEREAS, in 1986, the Public School Reform Act increased graduation requirements and reduced the number of electives students could count toward graduation; and**

**WHEREAS, since that time, high school student enrollment in career technical education classes has steadily declined; and**

**WHEREAS, studies indicate that the nature of work in the**

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1 twenty-first century will be altered by technological changes,  
2 demographic shifts and globalization; and

3 WHEREAS, studies also indicate that many of the jobs being  
4 created in the economy require highly specific technical  
5 knowledge; and

6 WHEREAS, the economic development of New Mexico is linked  
7 to the existence of a highly trained work force; and

8 WHEREAS, state law now requires students to develop a  
9 next-step plan for transition from high school to higher  
10 education, a trade or vocational program, military service or a  
11 job, and for promotion to each successive grade and for  
12 graduation; and

13 WHEREAS, persons who lack appropriate education or skills  
14 training in high school often face an uncertain economic future  
15 of low paying jobs or unemployment, which may result in  
16 increased burdens being placed on publicly subsidized services  
17 such as welfare, health care and correctional facilities; and

18 WHEREAS, school districts are not likely to offer a wide  
19 array of career technical education courses without incentives  
20 related to funding or meeting graduation requirements;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department, in  
23 cooperation with the legislative education study committee and  
24 school district personnel, be requested to study the  
25 feasibility of including a weighting factor for career

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1 technical education in the public school funding formula; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include options to  
3 increase student enrollment in career technical education  
4 programs without increasing funding requirements, such as  
5 awarding credit for certain graduation requirements through  
6 completion of career technical education courses; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a  
8 comprehensive review of additional capital expenditures in the  
9 form of additional facilities or specialized equipment or  
10 materials required to support career technical education  
11 curriculum in schools statewide; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education  
13 department report its findings and recommendations for changes  
14 to the public school funding formula to the legislative  
15 education study committee by November 2004; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study  
18 committee and the secretary of public education for appropriate  
19 distribution.

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