1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 63
2	46th LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Sue Wilson Beffort
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10	A JOINT MEMORIAL
11	REQUESTING THAT THE STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPOINT A
12	SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A
13	WORKPLACE READINESS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
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15	WHEREAS, many New Mexico employers report that they are
16	unable to hire employees because the prospective workforce
17	entrants lack basic workplace-relevant skills; and
18	WHEREAS, a need exists to measure the workplace-relevant
19	skill levels of New Mexico's prospective workforce entrants to
20	set educational system standards and to quantify the
21	effectiveness of New Mexico's educational system for
22	employability; and
23	WHEREAS, a need exists for New Mexico to demonstrate the
24	capability and size of its workforce to prospective employers
25	so they may consider moving to or expanding operations in the
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state; and

WHEREAS, quality assessments are available to provide prospective workforce entrants with credentials that will assist them in qualifying for jobs matched to their skill levels; and

WHEREAS, these assessments may also provide constructive feedback to prospective workforce entrants about their true skill levels so that the entrants may participate in remedial or additional education to move into their desired positions; and

WHEREAS, other states, including Kentucky and Louisiana, have successfully implemented a workplace readiness certification program that matches a prospective workforce entrant's skills level with an employer's required workplace skills; and

WHEREAS, a workplace readiness certification program may improve the overall competitiveness and attractiveness of New Mexico's workforce;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state workforce development board be requested to appoint a subcommittee of representatives from the state's workforce support agencies and programs, state and regional workforce development boards, public school and higher education workforce training providers and the business community to work through the governor's office of workforce . 150946.1

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training and development to study the feasibility of implementing a workplace readiness certification program in one-stop career centers, community colleges and public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state workforce development board subcommittee study include information on the implementation of workforce readiness certification programs in other states, the necessary assessment tools, an implementation plan, a time line and funding requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state workforce development board subcommittee submit its findings to key employer groups, training providers and workforce agencies for comment and input and submit recommendations through the governor's office of workforce training and development to the appropriate legislative interim committees prior to November 1, 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the office of workforce training and development, state and local workforce development boards, the labor department, the economic development department, the human services department, the public education department, the association of community colleges, the association of commerce and industry and other publicly funded workforce support program organizations.

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