

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 13

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE PROGRESS OF
DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES OF THE EDUCATOR QUALITY
COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, national research indicates that the single most
important factor influencing student achievement is teacher
quality; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has found that teachers and other
education professionals play a key role in any reform effort
and has acknowledged their importance in the educational
process; and

WHEREAS, Section 22-10A-4 NMSA 1978 states that teaching
and school administration are recognized as professions, with
all the rights, responsibilities and privileges accorded

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1 professions, having their first responsibility to the public
2 they serve; and

3 WHEREAS, the legislature supports efforts to accord the
4 education profession those rights, responsibilities and
5 privileges; and

6 WHEREAS, the legislature has enacted a three-tiered
7 licensure system and other measures designed to elevate the
8 teaching profession to ensure that every student in New Mexico
9 is taught by highly qualified teachers; and

10 WHEREAS, the enactment of the federal No Child Left Behind
11 Act of 2001 requiring that all teachers of core academic
12 subjects be highly qualified by the 2005-2006 school year
13 further reflects the importance of quality teaching; and

14 WHEREAS, the quality of teacher preparation programs, the
15 effectiveness of educator licensure procedures and the
16 disposition of educator professional ethics cases are issues
17 that affect the quality of teachers in the public schools and,
18 so, are of concern to the legislature, public school districts,
19 professional educators and the public; and

20 WHEREAS, the legislature has by law delegated to the
21 public education department the power of the state to determine
22 the qualifications for and to issue licenses to teachers,
23 instructional support providers and school administrators; and

24 WHEREAS, the professional standards commission, a
25 nineteen-member advisory group established through rule,

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1 formerly served as an advisory panel to the state board of
2 education on approval and accreditation of teacher preparation
3 programs, adoption of educator licensure rules and the
4 disposition of professional ethic cases; and

5 WHEREAS, due to governance changes at the public education
6 department resulting from the approval by the people of
7 Constitutional Amendment 1 in the special election in 2003, the
8 rule providing for the professional standards commission was
9 repealed; and

10 WHEREAS, in order to promote the recognition of the
11 education profession in accordance with Section 22-10A-4 NMSA
12 1978, the public education department has adopted a new rule to
13 establish the professional practices and standards council; and

14 WHEREAS, the professional practices and standards council
15 will have a majority of practicing educators as members and
16 otherwise support the education profession as a recognized
17 profession;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
20 commended for taking steps to recognize the education
21 profession; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
23 department be requested to report to the legislative education
24 study committee on the progress of development of procedures
25 and processes of the professional practices and standards

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1 council and other efforts to promote the autonomy of the
2 education profession; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the
5 director of the legislative education study committee for
6 appropriate distribution.

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