

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKE A
12 STUDY OF THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE
13 PATHWAY TO LICENSURE FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.

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15 WHEREAS, research shows that the work of school
16 administrators has a powerful impact on student achievement,
17 second only to the quality of curriculum and teaching among
18 school-related factors that influence learning; and

19 WHEREAS, a growing body of evidence indicates that
20 leadership is the make-or-break factor for schools and school
21 districts under increasing pressure to produce dramatic
22 improvements in student performance; and

23 WHEREAS, many of the qualities of effective leadership are
24 universal, including the ability to articulate a clear vision,
25 build an effective team united around ambitious goals, marshal

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1 the resources needed to achieve those goals, communicate
2 effectively with internal and external constituencies and keep
3 the organization on course as it moves forward; and

4 WHEREAS, at a time when state and federal educational
5 accountability systems have made effective school leadership
6 vitally important, New Mexico schools and school districts face
7 a shortage of successful leaders and an unacceptably high rate
8 of turnover among school principals and superintendents; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2003, the New Mexico legislature included in
10 its comprehensive package of school reforms the creation of a
11 three-tiered teacher licensure system that rightly encourages
12 master teachers to remain in the classroom if they wish rather
13 than move into administrative positions, thus potentially
14 adding to the administrator shortage; and

15 WHEREAS, the three-tiered licensure system provides for
16 candidates with appropriate educational credentials to earn a
17 level one teaching license through alternative licensure by
18 demonstrating competencies, but no parallel provision exists
19 for alternative licensure of school administrators in New
20 Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, at least twenty states in the union have enacted
22 laws or established policies providing for alternative
23 licensure for school principals or school district
24 superintendents, and several other states are considering
25 similar measures;

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