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HOUSE MEMORIAL 63

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Richard D. Vigil

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF USING THE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP TO FUND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN DUAL CREDIT, DISTANCE LEARNING AND ON-LINE DUAL CREDIT COURSES AND WHO ARE ATTENDING PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION-FUNDED SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, the legislature created the lottery success scholarship and the lottery tuition fund in 1995 to encourage New Mexico students to pursue post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, the amount of money in the fund currently exceeds annual scholarship disbursements; and

WHEREAS, the higher education department is responsible for the distribution of financial aid to support equitable access to college for New Mexico students, including

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1 disbursements from the lottery tuition fund, and in 2008  
2 oversaw the distribution of close to seventy-five million  
3 dollars (\$75,000,000); and

4 WHEREAS, the dual credit program in New Mexico allows  
5 public high school students in school districts, charter  
6 schools and state-supported schools to earn both high school  
7 and college credits simultaneously; and

8 WHEREAS, district and local funding provided to support  
9 students enrolled in dual credit courses, including on-line  
10 dual credit courses, is not sufficient to support projected  
11 enrollment; and

12 WHEREAS, schools run by the bureau of Indian education are  
13 providing essential support to increase the numbers of Native  
14 American students to pursue post-secondary education; and

15 WHEREAS, distance learning courses that are offered in New  
16 Mexico schools extend opportunities to students, particularly  
17 in rural areas, to pursue post-secondary education; and

18 WHEREAS, students enrolled in dual credit programs,  
19 including on-line dual education courses, bureau of Indian  
20 education-funded schools and distance learning programs  
21 currently do not qualify for access to lottery scholarships;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, enhanced access to the lottery scholarship fund  
24 can improve the public education of New Mexicans and is an  
25 important step to increase the number of college graduates in

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1 the state; and

2 WHEREAS, the higher education department, together with  
3 the public education department, coordinates policies and  
4 resources for the education of New Mexico youth from  
5 kindergarten through post-secondary education;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher  
8 education department be requested to create a task force to  
9 study the feasibility of using the lottery scholarship to fund  
10 educational opportunities for students who are enrolled in dual  
11 credit, distance learning and on-line dual credit courses and  
12 who are attending public high schools and bureau of Indian  
13 education-funded schools; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include  
15 representation from the governor's office, the lieutenant  
16 governor's office, the Indian education division of the public  
17 education department, school district superintendents,  
18 community colleges and universities; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study identify  
20 opportunities to increase collaboration among state agencies  
21 serving students in dual credit programs, bureau of Indian  
22 education-funded schools and distance learning programs; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and  
24 recommendations of the study be presented to the interim  
25 legislative education study committee and the legislative

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1 finance committee by October 1, 2009; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the office of the governor, the office of the  
4 lieutenant governor, the higher education department and the  
5 Indian education division of the public education department.

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