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SENATE MEMORIAL 99

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

INTRODUCED BY

Gay G. Kernan

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO CONVENE
A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A NEED TO INCLUDE
HEALTH EDUCATION AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION FROM PUBLIC
SCHOOL.

WHEREAS, the genuine pursuit of excellence in education
requires that school communities periodically examine and
assess all aspects of their educational programs to identify
ways in which existing policies, standards and competencies
might be strengthened; and

WHEREAS, the public education department has established
standards for excellence that set graduation expectations for
public schools; and

WHEREAS, the standards for excellence establish the
content standards with benchmarks in health education that are

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1 used by all public schools, charter schools and state-supported
2 educational institutions to develop, deliver and assess health
3 education curricula; and

4 WHEREAS, the content standards with benchmarks for health
5 education were adopted by regulation in March 1997, and the
6 benchmarks and performance standards were revised in June 2007;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, these content and performance standards are
9 mandated for students in grades kindergarten through twelve;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, by law, all first, second and third grade classes
12 are required to provide instruction in art, music and a
13 language other than English, and instruction that meets content
14 standards, benchmarks and performance standards in science,
15 social studies, physical education and health education; and

16 WHEREAS, by law, all fourth and fifth grade classes are
17 required to provide instruction in language arts, mathematics,
18 science and social studies, including geography, and, as
19 instructional time permits, to offer art, music, physical
20 education, health and computer literacy; and

21 WHEREAS, by law, all seventh grade classes are required to
22 provide instruction in English, with an emphasis on grammar and
23 writing, communication skills or science, New Mexico history
24 and geography, physical education and science; and

25 WHEREAS, the standards for excellence state that school

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1 health programs must provide opportunities for all students to
2 develop healthy behaviors; and

3 WHEREAS, school districts are required to provide or make
4 provisions for school health programs that address the health
5 needs of students and staff; and

6 WHEREAS, school districts are required to provide health
7 education, physical education, health services and school
8 counseling, and may provide nutrition, staff wellness, family-
9 school-community partnerships, healthy environments and
10 psychological services; and

11 WHEREAS, the standards for excellence allow for the
12 requirements for health education to be integrated into
13 existing and related courses or to be taught as stand-alone
14 courses;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
16 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study committee be
17 requested to convene a task force to determine whether there is
18 a need to include health education as a requirement for
19 graduation from public school; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
21 representation from the public education department, the
22 department of health, higher education institutions with health
23 education teacher preparation programs, school superintendents,
24 school health educators, school counselors and other educators
25 and community organizations focused on school health issues;

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1 and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider
3 creative alternatives for the delivery of health education
4 content standards with benchmarks and performance standards;
5 and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
7 findings and recommendations to the legislative education study
8 committee by January 2010; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
11 committee, the secretary of public education and the secretary
12 of health.

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