

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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7
8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE A TWO-
12 YEAR INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

13
14 WHEREAS, Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New
15 Mexico specifies the state higher education institutions that
16 offer a bachelor's degree program, including the university of
17 New Mexico, New Mexico institute of mining and technology, New
18 Mexico state university, western New Mexico university, eastern
19 New Mexico university and New Mexico highlands university; and

20 WHEREAS, in addition to the universities and northern New
21 Mexico college, there are multiple community colleges,
22 associate degree colleges and instructional sites offering
23 higher education courses; and

24 WHEREAS, the center on education and the workforce has
25 determined that two-thirds of all American jobs will require

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1 some level of higher education and one-third of all jobs will
2 require a bachelor's, graduate or professional degree by 2018;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the fastest growing economies of the world
5 sponsor graduate education and invest in university research
6 programs; and

7 WHEREAS, the state has made access to higher education a
8 priority through factors in the higher education funding
9 formula, financial aid, distance education and learning
10 centers; and

11 WHEREAS, due to budget constraints, the state has reduced
12 higher education funding while shifting a larger portion of the
13 overall cost of higher education to students at high-tuition
14 institutions; and

15 WHEREAS, the continued expansion of developmental and
16 remedial education consumes limited resources, restricting
17 higher education opportunities; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico's economic, public safety and health
19 interests are heavily dependent on the well-being of the
20 state's higher education efforts; and

21 WHEREAS, the legislative education study committee is
22 prohibited from studying higher education and making
23 recommendations other than with respect to the training of
24 certified teaching personnel; and

25 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes the need to focus on

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1 higher education;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
4 requested to create a two-year interim legislative "higher
5 education committee" to consult with the higher education
6 institutions and the higher education department to advance the
7 state's higher education effort; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education committee
9 examine:

10 A. opportunities to coordinate disciplines and
11 degrees across institutional lines to assure adequate coverage
12 of degree or program offerings by multiple institutions,
13 particularly in high-demand and burgeoning industries;

14 B. the impact of regional and national
15 accreditation and professional standards on curriculum and
16 graduation requirements and the relationships between state
17 funding, institutional practices and students' perceptions of
18 why students do not complete courses and programs;

19 C. education outcomes and work force needs by
20 economic and geographic sectors;

21 D. the state's changing demographics and
22 institutional statistics; and

23 E. faculty and staff compensation, including
24 salaries and benefits, and academic and research recruitment
25 and retention; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education committee
2 consider:

3 A. funding adequacy and equity and resource
4 allocation, including mission-differentiated higher education
5 funding formulae; and

6 B. dedication of a revenue stream, similar to that
7 provided for public education, to address the deferred
8 maintenance condition of higher education facilities; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education committee
10 develop recommendations and report to the legislature by
11 November 30, 2012 and again by November 30, 2013; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
14 council and to the secretary of higher education.