

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

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

A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

WHEREAS, the public higher education institutions in the
state that offer a bachelor's degree program include the
university of New Mexico, New Mexico institute of mining and
technology, New Mexico state university, western New Mexico
university, eastern New Mexico university, New Mexico highlands
university and northern New Mexico college; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the higher education institutions
that offer bachelor's degree programs, numerous community
colleges, branch community colleges, vocational institutions,
technical institutions, learning centers and off-campus
instructional facilities offer associate's degree programs or
other higher education opportunities; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, the state has made access to higher education a
9 priority through factors in the higher education funding
10 formula, financial aid and diversification of higher education
11 providers; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico's economic well-being requires the
20 comprehensive provision and continued improvement of higher
21 education; and

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

1 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes the need to focus on
2 higher education;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
5 requested to create a two-year interim legislative "higher
6 education committee" to consult with and assist the higher
7 education department; public higher education institutions that
8 offer bachelor's and graduate degree programs; community
9 colleges; branch community colleges; vocational and technical
10 institutions; learning centers; and off-campus instructional
11 facilities; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education committee
13 examine:

14 A. opportunities to coordinate disciplines and
15 degrees across institutional lines to assure adequate coverage
16 of degree or program offerings by multiple institutions,
17 particularly in high-demand and burgeoning industries;

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

23 C. the relationships that currently exist and the
24 future relationships that should be fostered between the
25 institutions that offer bachelor's and graduate degree programs

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1 and the institutions and facilities that offer associate's
2 degree programs or other higher education opportunities;

3 D. education outcomes and work force needs by
4 economic and geographic sectors;

5 E. higher education's accommodation of the state's
6 changing demographics;

7 F. the faculty, staff, program and facility needs
8 of all public institutions and facilities that offer any higher
9 education courses;

10 G. higher education administrative and teaching
11 staff recruitment, retention, research and compensation;

12 H. the adequacy and equity of the funding sources
13 and amounts of funding distributions to all public institutions
14 and facilities that offer any higher education courses;

15 I. present and future funding and resource
16 allocations to all public institutions and facilities that
17 offer any higher education courses, based on student needs,
18 immediate and long-term work force needs and possible mission-
19 differentiated higher education funding formulae; and

20 J. dedication of a revenue stream for higher
21 education, similar to that provided for public education for
22 students in kindergarten through grade twelve; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education committee
24 develop recommendations and report to the legislature by
25 November 30, 2012 and again by November 30, 2013; and

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

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