

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 24

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Linda M. Lopez

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE, IN
12 CONJUNCTION WITH THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE
13 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO APPOINT A WORK GROUP TO EXAMINE THE
14 NEW MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH CURRICULUM AND MAKE
15 RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHANGES TO IMPROVE THE EFFICACY OF THE
16 PROGRAM.

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18 WHEREAS, the federal centers for disease control and
19 prevention has identified health risk behaviors that contribute
20 to increased morbidity and mortality in adults; and

21 WHEREAS, these health risk behaviors are often established
22 during childhood and include tobacco use, unhealthy dietary
23 behaviors, inadequate physical activity, alcohol and other drug
24 use, sexual behaviors that can contribute to unintended
25 pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including human

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1 immunodeficiency virus infection, and behaviors that contribute
2 to unintentional injuries and violence; and

3 WHEREAS, concern over the health risk behaviors of youth
4 has justifiably grown in recent years as more risk-taking
5 behaviors have been reported in children and young people, with
6 documentation in governmental publications showing a rise in
7 risk-taking behaviors; and

8 WHEREAS, research indicates that students who do not
9 participate in health risk behaviors, such as drinking,
10 smoking, fighting, suicide and suicidal ideation, are more
11 likely to get good grades in school and make plans to go to
12 college or some other post-secondary school after high school
13 than are students who engage in those behaviors; and

14 WHEREAS, health education is the content area that enables
15 students to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to
16 achieve optimum health; and

17 WHEREAS, research shows that young people with good health
18 knowledge, skills and attitudes have better health status and,
19 as adults, are better prepared to contribute to the nation's
20 economic competitiveness; and

21 WHEREAS, beginning with the students who entered the
22 eighth grade in the 2012-2013 school year, New Mexico students
23 are required to take a course in health education prior to
24 graduation;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
2 committee, in conjunction with the public education department
3 and the department of health, be requested to appoint a work
4 group of stakeholders to study the current New Mexico high
5 school health curriculum for its effectiveness and report the
6 results of the study and any recommendations to the legislative
7 education study committee, the governor, the public education
8 department and the department of health before the beginning of
9 the 2014 legislative session; and

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