

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 109

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pete Campos

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK  
12 FORCE TO EVALUATE THE QUALITY OF ONLINE STUDY COURSES, THE  
13 STATE'S ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND CORRESPONDING REGULATIONS  
14 FOR LICENSURE IN THE STATE AS A PSYCHOLOGIST.

15  
16 WHEREAS, the demand for behavioral health care services is  
17 increasing, and the state must continuously monitor the  
18 adequacy of the behavioral health care work force and  
19 resources; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a mostly rural state that has some  
21 of the nation's highest rates of suicide and alcohol and drug  
22 use; and

23 WHEREAS, the publicly funded behavioral health system is a  
24 vital safety net for people with serious mental illnesses such  
25 as depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia; and

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1           WHEREAS, behavioral health care services are not always  
2 sufficient to meet the demand in many regions of the state; and

3           WHEREAS, in many rural areas, the range of behavioral  
4 health care services is insufficient to meet the demand for  
5 services; and

6           WHEREAS, where some mental health services do exist,  
7 providers qualified to effectively treat complex diagnoses,  
8 including counselors, social workers, psychologists and  
9 psychiatrists with expertise in early childhood mental health,  
10 are at times unavailable; and

11           WHEREAS, current behavioral health professional  
12 requirements provide restrictions on an applicant's eligibility  
13 to apply for licensure as a psychologist in the state; and

14           WHEREAS, the state's psychologist licensing procedures  
15 require applicants to have a doctoral degree from a program  
16 accredited by the American psychological association, and this  
17 organization does not currently allow accreditation of programs  
18 that are substantially online; and

19           WHEREAS, the higher education department is statutorily  
20 charged with the periodic study of higher education academic  
21 program demands, institutional competencies and infrastructure  
22 and state work force demands and therefore has the expertise to  
23 carry out the requested study;

24           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
25 OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be requested

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1 to convene a task force that includes representatives of the  
2 regulation and licensing department, the behavioral health  
3 services division of the human services department, the New  
4 Mexico association of school psychologists, the New Mexico  
5 psychological association, the New Mexico state board of  
6 psychologist examiners and others to evaluate the quality of  
7 online study courses, the state's licensing procedures,  
8 licensure eligibility requirements and corresponding  
9 regulations for psychologists; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be  
11 requested to hold meetings with students and representatives of  
12 nontraditional doctoral programs that are excluded from  
13 eligibility on the basis of their use of online methods of  
14 education; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any recommended changes to the  
16 state's licensing procedures, licensure eligibility  
17 requirements or corresponding regulations be made to the  
18 appropriate interim committee no later than December 1, 2015;  
19 and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the  
22 superintendent of regulation and licensing, the director of the  
23 behavioral health services division of the human services  
24 department, the president of the New Mexico association of  
25 school psychologists, the executive director of the New Mexico

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1 psychological association and the chair of the New Mexico state  
2 board of psychologist examiners.

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