

HOUSE MEMORIAL 69

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO ENHANCE THE TEACHING OF GENOCIDES, SLAVERY, THE
HOLOCAUST AND OTHER EGREGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a multicultural state that is rich
with history; and

WHEREAS, effective school leadership includes providing a
learning environment that enhances a student's understanding of
the contributions of the many diverse cultures that populate
New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, historically and presently, incidents occur
within the state where individuals and communities are targeted
because of their cultural, differently abled, ethnic, gender,
national, political, racial and religious identities; and

WHEREAS, classroom teachers and other educators are in a

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1 position to help students address and understand issues that
2 arise from hatred, bigotry and intolerance; and

3 WHEREAS, classroom teachers are looking to appropriately
4 teach lessons that delve into the history of human behavior and
5 examine contemporary basic human rights issues, particularly
6 those that help students reflect on their own behavior and
7 responsibilities as community members; and

8 WHEREAS, advancing student learning and equitable outcomes
9 requires educational leaders to have standards that guide their
10 preparation for developing and expanding their teaching skills,
11 as well as a foundational knowledge of historical events and a
12 comprehensive understanding of the complexity of these
13 historical events that could result in an improved climate of
14 understanding, tolerance and appreciation of various cultures;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public
17 education department be requested to convene a task force,
18 including educators and community members chosen by the task
19 force, to develop curricular materials, professional
20 development resources and guidance for a program to enhance the
21 teaching of genocides, slavery, the Holocaust and other
22 egregious human rights violations and inequity throughout
23 history and the connection to conflicts that arise today; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall seek
25 input and representation from the office on African American

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1 affairs, the Indian affairs department, the cultural affairs
2 department, colleges of education, other education and
3 governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations supporting
4 and protecting human rights in the state; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
6 develop guidance for conformance with current New Mexico social
7 studies standards on teaching courses that involve human rights
8 issues, with particular attention to the study of genocides,
9 slavery and the Holocaust; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
11 include in the comprehensive plan recommendations on how to
12 incorporate the developed standards into existing courses in
13 middle school and high school curricula; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
15 design instructional materials that:

16 A. prepare students to confront and understand acts
17 of mass violence and reflect on the causes of related
18 historical events;

19 B. develop students' respect for cultural diversity
20 and help students gain insight into the importance of
21 individuals and communities to facilitate the protection of
22 international human rights for all people;

23 C. communicate the impact of personal
24 responsibility, civic engagement and societal responses;

25 D. stimulate students' reflection on the individual

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1 and community-wide roles and responsibilities of citizens in
2 democratic societies to combat misinformation, indifference and
3 discrimination through the development of critical thinking
4 skills and appropriate actions to defend individuals and
5 communities whose human rights are being violated;

6 E. provide students with opportunities to put into
7 context and analyze patterns of human behavior by individuals
8 and groups;

9 F. enable students to understand the ramifications
10 of prejudice, racism and stereotyping;

11 G. provide students with a foundation for examining
12 the history of discrimination in New Mexico; and

13 H. explore the various mechanisms of transitional
14 and restorative justice that help humanity move forward in the
15 aftermath of genocide and other violent and egregious acts; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force prepare
17 curricula, materials and professional development resources
18 for educators throughout New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force be
20 requested to provide options for the design of a pilot program;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report
23 findings, recommendations and pilot program options to the
24 legislative education study committee by June 30, 2024; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the legislative
2 education study committee and the secretary of public
3 education.

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