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HOUSE MEMORIAL 53

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

INTRODUCED BY

Tara L. Lujan and Yanira Gurrola and G. Andrés Romero  
and Debra M. Sariñana and E. Diane Torres-Velásquez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE  
CREATION OF A "GIFTED IN-FIELD" ENDORSEMENT FOR SECONDARY  
SCHOOL GIFTED EDUCATION TEACHERS.

WHEREAS, the needs of gifted students attending secondary  
school, who are ready for greater independence and development  
of their talents and expertise in specific areas of study, are  
often substantially different from those of gifted students  
attending elementary school; and

WHEREAS, while gifted students at the secondary school  
level can benefit from beginning to develop expertise through  
accelerated coursework delivered from sources such as dual  
enrollment, advanced placement and the international  
baccalaureate, those programs often do not consistently address  
the social, emotional, creative and leadership development

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1 needs of those students; and

2 WHEREAS, rules promulgated by the public education  
3 department require teachers obtaining a gifted education  
4 endorsement to have demonstrated competency to deliver content  
5 area instruction to gifted students from a position of  
6 expertise, to apply pedagogy appropriate to the content area  
7 being taught and to apply higher-level thinking and meta-  
8 cognitive models to those content areas; and

9 WHEREAS, the public education department's rules require  
10 that individual education programs for gifted students in the  
11 state produce advanced outcomes, develop the strengths and  
12 interests of gifted students and address other educational  
13 needs; and

14 WHEREAS, the public education department's rules allow  
15 students to be identified as gifted in a wide range of fields,  
16 including all subject areas for which educational standards for  
17 students have been adopted, but teachers with gifted education  
18 endorsements often do not possess content expertise in all of  
19 those subject areas; and

20 WHEREAS, the public education department currently allows  
21 special education teachers without expertise or endorsement in  
22 gifted education to teach gifted education classes because of  
23 an ongoing lack of gifted education teachers; and

24 WHEREAS, secondary school teachers with advanced knowledge  
25 in a subject area in addition to knowledge about the needs of

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1 gifted learners could provide advanced instruction to students  
2 with advanced readiness who are not identified as gifted;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public  
5 education department be requested to collaborate with the  
6 state's public post-secondary educational institutions and  
7 gifted education organizations to study the creation of a  
8 "gifted in-field" endorsement for secondary school gifted  
9 education teachers and to consider courses available from the  
10 state's public post-secondary educational institutions and  
11 other criteria necessary to establish advanced content  
12 knowledge that could fulfill endorsement requirements for those  
13 teachers; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department be requested to  
15 study and evaluate criteria to determine the amount of  
16 expertise necessary in various subject areas for the state to  
17 develop a gifted in-field endorsement teacher workforce that  
18 can both deliver advanced coursework in various content areas  
19 and serve the needs of secondary school gifted students to  
20 develop expertise in those subject areas; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the public education department and the  
23 governor.