

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

James G. Taylor

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO STUDY
ALTERNATIVES TO SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS FROM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND DEVELOP AN INTERVENTION PLAN THAT SCHOOL
DISTRICTS MUST FOLLOW PRIOR TO SUSPENDING OR EXPELLING
STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, students at risk are defined by researchers as
those students likely to have low academic achievement and
apt to drop out of school and enter the job market as
unskilled laborers unprepared for full citizenship in our
technological culture; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that many students at risk
enter school already lacking in linguistic skills and
parental involvement; therefore, as these students move
through the education system, many drop out and face futures
without basic skills such as functional literacy; and

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, suspension and expulsion are used too
2 frequently by some schools as a remedy for aberrant behavior,
3 and those actions do not have any educational benefit; and

4 WHEREAS, it is imperative that students at risk not be
5 denied the benefits of an education;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
8 education be requested to study alternatives to suspension
9 and expulsion of students from public schools and develop an
10 intervention plan that school districts follow prior to
11 suspending or expelling students; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the intervention plan
13 include course credit completion, community service and
14 counseling; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goal of the intervention
16 plan be to create other options for the development and
17 success of at-risk students; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of
19 public education report its findings and recommendations to
20 the legislative education study committee by October 2000;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction, the
24 state board of education and the legislative education study
25 committee.