

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 11

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

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO STUDY OPTIONS
WITHIN THE EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO ASSIST IN THE
RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS AND TO ALLEVIATE THE SHORTAGE OF
TEACHERS.

WHEREAS, research indicates that New Mexico, like the
rest of the nation, is facing a shortage of qualified
teachers; and

WHEREAS, teachers who are close to retirement are a
resource available to alleviate the shortage of qualified
teachers; and

WHEREAS, recruiting selected retired teachers back into
service in the public schools is another means of alleviating
the shortage of qualified teachers; and

WHEREAS, growing numbers of teachers and other school
personnel in New Mexico are retiring and drawing benefits

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1 under the state retirement system while working in the public
2 school system of another state; and

3 WHEREAS, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas have
4 implemented programs that, under certain conditions, allow
5 retired teachers to return to service in special needs areas;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and Texas have
8 implemented deferred retirement option plans, known as DROP
9 programs; and

10 WHEREAS, the effects, if any, of such programs upon the
11 actuarial soundness of the state's educational retirement
12 system must be carefully considered;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
15 education along with the educational retirement board examine
16 the feasibility of retiring teacher enticement programs, such
17 as the DROP program, that are effective in keeping teachers
18 on the job for a longer period and in encouraging teachers to
19 return to work after retirement; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of
21 public education study other alternatives that would entice
22 teachers eligible for retirement to continue working in the
23 profession; and

24 BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of
25 public education examine the effect that any teacher
enticement or recruitment programs may have on the actuarial
soundness of the educational retirement fund; and

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1 BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of
2 public education report its findings and recommendations to
3 the legislative education study committee by November 1,
4 2000; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction, the
7 director of the educational retirement board and the director
8 of the legislative education study committee for appropriate
9 distribution.