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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Di anne Ham l i t o n**

**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO IDENTIFY  
THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED AT  
EACH SCHOOL, IDENTIFY THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS OFFERING  
ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES FOR THESE STUDENTS AND  
DETERMINE THE REASONS WHY SOME SCHOOLS DO NOT OFFER SUCH  
SERVICES.**

**WHEREAS, suspension and expulsion are two leading  
variables that impact student retention in one or more grades,  
and research indicates that forty to fifty percent of students  
suspended or expelled for one year are likely to drop out of  
school; and**

**WHEREAS, research also indicates that ninety percent of  
students suspended or expelled more than once are likely to**

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1 drop out of school as a result of retention and low academic  
2 performance; and

3 WHEREAS, students who are suspended, expelled or who drop  
4 out of school export problems or aberrant behavior from the  
5 school to the larger community, face futures without basic  
6 skills such as functional literacy and are unprepared for full  
7 citizenship in our technological culture; and

8 WHEREAS, recent statistics support the conclusion that  
9 more juvenile crimes result from youths who are engaged in  
10 idleness or collective gatherings such as gangs or who are  
11 unsupervised and gathered together during school hours than  
12 from youths actively engaged in educational or other productive  
13 activities; and

14 WHEREAS, an effective method of motivating and encouraging  
15 students to remain in school is to provide an alternative  
16 educational learning setting for disruptive students;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public  
19 education be requested to identify the number of students who  
20 have been suspended or expelled at each school, identify the  
21 number of schools offering alternative instructional services  
22 for these students and determine the reasons why some schools  
23 do not offer such services; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public  
25 education make recommendations to meet the needs of these

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1 students and report to the legislative education study  
2 committee by November 2001; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction and to  
5 the director of the legislative education study committee.

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