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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 72

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto J. Gonzales

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE WORK GROUP
ON CHARTER SCHOOLS TO STUDY THE FISCAL AND PROGRAMMATIC IMPACT
OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ON THE STATE AS A WHOLE
AS WELL AS THE NUMBER AND ENROLLMENT SIZE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS
THAT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS SO
THAT DISTRICTS MAY CONTINUE TO SERVE STUDENTS IN A FISCALLY AND
PROGRAMMATICALLY PRUDENT MANNER.**

**WHEREAS, the 1999 Charter Schools Act was enacted by the
legislature four years ago; and**

**WHEREAS, charter schools are public schools that are
required to meet the same academic and fiscal accountability
standards required of all other public schools; and**

**WHEREAS, the 1999 Charter Schools Act requires that no
more than fifteen start-up charter schools and five conversion**

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1 charter schools be approved in any one year for five
2 consecutive years, making possible a total of one hundred
3 approved charter schools in any five-year period; and

4 WHEREAS, the limit on the number of charter schools is not
5 based on any data regarding the fiscal or programmatic impact
6 of charter schools on the viability of local school districts
7 individually and the state as a whole; and

8 WHEREAS, the state board of education has approved the
9 charters of thirty-five charter schools, twenty-seven of which
10 are currently open and eight of which will open in the fall of
11 2003; and

12 WHEREAS, of thirty-five approved schools, thirty-two are
13 start-up schools and three are conversion schools; and

14 WHEREAS, the twenty-seven open schools have a total
15 enrollment of more than six thousand students; and

16 WHEREAS, the student population in charter schools ranges
17 from seventeen students to four hundred fifty students; and

18 WHEREAS, charter schools are funded under the same funding
19 formula as public schools; and

20 WHEREAS, the New Mexico public school funding formula is
21 one of the most equitable in the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, notwithstanding the equity of the formula,
23 funding for New Mexico public schools has been limited and
24 under great stress in the past several years; and

25 WHEREAS, questions and concerns have arisen about the size

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1 and limit of the number of schools established within a school
2 district and the fiscal and programmatic viability of both
3 charter schools and their host school districts, as well as
4 school districts throughout the state;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
7 committee work group on charter schools be requested to study
8 the fiscal and programmatic impact of the establishment of
9 charter schools on the state as a whole, as well as the number
10 and enrollment size of charter schools that should be
11 established in individual school districts so that districts
12 may continue to serve students in a fiscally and
13 programmatically prudent manner; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
15 study committee work group on charter schools report its
16 findings and recommendations to the legislative education study
17 committee by November 2003; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the chair of the legislative education study
20 committee for distribution.