

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 101

2 46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Henry Kiki Saavedra

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING NEW MEXICO HISTORY IN
12 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND REQUESTING THE STATE
13 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO CREATE
14 A NEW MEXICO HISTORY CURRICULUM

15
16 WHEREAS, gaining a sense of history is a gradual and
17 cumulative process and, therefore, the study of history should
18 begin early and continue throughout a student's educational
19 career; and

20 WHEREAS, if students study New Mexico history, they will
21 become familiar with the development and expansion of the
22 state, which will enable them to better understand the present
23 relationship between the multiple cultures of this state,
24 between this state and other states of the United States,
25 between this state and the United States and between New Mexico

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 and other countries; and

2 WHEREAS, if students have a foundation of basic United
3 States history and of New Mexico history, they can better
4 understand their roles and responsibilities as citizens of the
5 state of New Mexico and the United States and as a part of the
6 global community; and

7 WHEREAS, the 1998 national assessment of educational
8 progress civics assessment showed that one-third of fourth
9 graders could not explain the meaning of "I pledge allegiance
10 to the flag" on a multiple-choice test, and a majority of
11 fourth graders could not answer why "citizens elect people to
12 make laws for them" in a democracy; and

13 WHEREAS, it is important for students to be able to
14 identify crucial events in United States history and in New
15 Mexico history in order to make informed decisions; and

16 WHEREAS, distinguished historians and educators fear that
17 without a common civic memory and a common understanding of the
18 remarkable individuals, events and ideals that have shaped this
19 state, people in the state will risk losing much of what it
20 means to be New Mexicans; and

21 WHEREAS, such understanding is necessary for the fair
22 treatment of all of New Mexico's citizens and for the
23 reconciliation of differences; and

24 WHEREAS, the understanding fostered by the study of New
25 Mexico history will help to preserve the state's unique blend

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 of multiple cultures and traditions;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of teaching New Mexico
4 history in elementary and secondary schools be recognized; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public
6 education be requested to create a task force, including a
7 representative from the office of the state historian, to
8 create a functional New Mexico history curriculum, including
9 defining and developing user-friendly resources, teacher
10 training assistance and support materials; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report to an
12 appropriate interim legislative committee before the second
13 session of the forty-sixth legislature; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the state department of public education and the
16 New Mexico legislative council.