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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO NAME A
LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP STUDY COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, the lottery tuition scholarship program has
been a major success in New Mexico, allowing over thirty-two
thousand young residents of the state to achieve their dream
of higher education and allowing more New Mexico high school
graduates to stay in the state for higher education and then
employment; and

WHEREAS, the program serves New Mexico's publicly funded
colleges and universities by increasing enrollment and
revenue attributed to tuition; and

WHEREAS, the program also reduces the burden of the
state's taxpayers to fund overall public higher education by
providing another revenue stream for public colleges and
universities; and

WHEREAS, the program currently provides tuition
assistance to recent high school graduates and veterans who
enlisted in the armed services after graduation and are now
returning to New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the scholarship program is based on students'
academic merit, requiring that students maintain a 2.5 grade
point average with a course load of at least twelve credit
hours; and

1 WHEREAS, at least twelve bills have been introduced this
2 year for the legislature to change the lottery tuition
3 scholarship program, some of which expand the purpose of the
4 scholarship from tuition to other expenses, some of which
5 propose changing the program from a merit program to a
6 needs-based program and some of which propose opening the
7 program to more people and types of institutions; and

8 WHEREAS, arguably, that many proposals on a single topic
9 may mean that there is not yet a consensus in the legislature
10 on how the program should be designed;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council
13 be requested to appoint an interim legislative committee to
14 study the lottery tuition scholarship program and make
15 recommendations to the legislative council by December 15,
16 2005; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
19 council.

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