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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT A STUDY BE PERFORMED ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
A PRE-APPRENTICESHIP CURRICULUM IN HIGH SCHOOL  
CAREER-TECHNICAL PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has one of the highest dropout rates  
in the United States; and

WHEREAS, only twenty-three and nine-tenths percent of  
New Mexico high school graduates go on to attend college; and

WHEREAS, students who are not college-bound currently  
have inadequate options to keep them engaged in school and on  
track for graduation; and

WHEREAS, limited educational resources are currently  
dedicated to career-technical and vocational training; and

WHEREAS, an untrained and uninterested student has a  
higher likelihood of becoming involved in gangs and other  
counterproductive behavior; and

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing demand for well-trained  
employees in many technical fields in this state, and those  
jobs have high pay scales and provide benefits; and

WHEREAS, students should have an opportunity to start a  
trades-based career path during their junior and senior years  
of high school through pre-apprenticeship programs; and

WHEREAS, students enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship  
curriculum will be better prepared to enter registered

1 apprenticeship programs with some required coursework  
2 completed after high school graduation; and

3 WHEREAS, industry experts are often the most qualified  
4 teachers for pre-apprenticeship programs and  
5 pre-apprenticeship curriculum development; and

6 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of the state to  
7 encourage and facilitate the formation of cooperative  
8 relationships among business, labor and educational  
9 institutions to develop industry-taught pre-apprenticeship  
10 programs in order to give students the skills to meet  
11 workforce needs; and

12 WHEREAS, any program or curriculum development that  
13 results from the cooperative relationship among business,  
14 labor and educational institutions should be called "Running  
15 Start for Careers";

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that representatives from the public  
18 education department, the higher education department, the  
19 workforce solutions department, the economic development  
20 department, the association of commerce and industry,  
21 industry advocacy groups and registered apprenticeship  
22 programs in the state be requested to study the feasibility  
23 of implementing an industry-taught pre-apprenticeship  
24 curriculum in high school career-technical programs; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and

1 recommendations be presented to the legislative education  
2 study committee and any other appropriate legislative  
3 committee during the 2008 interim; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
5 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the  
6 secretary of higher education, the secretary of workforce  
7 solutions, the secretary of economic development, the speaker  
8 of the house of representatives, the president pro tempore of  
9 the senate and the governor. \_\_\_\_\_

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