

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 22

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STAGED, MULTIYEAR
PLAN TO IMPROVE HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE LABORATORY FACILITIES, AS
DESCRIBED IN NEW MEXICO PROJECT 2012.

WHEREAS, education is the key to the twenty-first century,
both in terms of economic prosperity and personal achievement;
and

WHEREAS, today's new economy is knowledge-based,
entrepreneurial and globally competitive to an extent that was
almost unimaginable even a decade ago; and

WHEREAS, a competitive, technically capable work force is
essential to New Mexico's economic future; and

WHEREAS, an essential way for students to acquire
technical capability and skill is via experience-based, hands-
on learning and problem solving in a high school laboratory

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1 setting; and

2 WHEREAS, learning in science is based on the core
3 principle of the scientific method, which includes hypothesis
4 development, experimental testing of that hypothesis and
5 hypothesis revision based on what has been learned; and

6 WHEREAS, use of the scientific method is a critical part
7 of almost all science-related activities; and

8 WHEREAS, the ways in which laboratory science is learned
9 and carried out are rapidly evolving due to novel web-based
10 materials, courses and demonstrations; the enormous impact of
11 computers in almost all aspects of scientific and technical
12 work; and the advent of modern instruments for laboratory
13 measurement and analysis; and

14 WHEREAS, improving and equipping our public high school
15 science laboratories to present a modern, exciting portal into
16 science and technology is one of the major recommendations of
17 New Mexico Project 2012, the proposal for comprehensive,
18 transformational change in the way kindergarten through twelfth
19 grade mathematics and science education is carried out in New
20 Mexico;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express its support for the
23 development of a thorough plan for revamping public high school
24 science laboratories in accordance with the New Mexico Project
25 2012 concepts; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan be conducted by the
2 public school facilities authority under the guidance of the
3 mathematics and science bureau of the public education
4 department and that it include costs and time lines for
5 providing our public high school students with modern high
6 school science laboratories and other resources to give them
7 the ability to acquire the knowledge and technical capability
8 they will need to be successful in the new economy; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan take into account the
10 balance between the needs for new building infrastructure and
11 laboratory equipment on the one hand and the possible economies
12 to be achieved by carrying out virtual laboratory exercises via
13 the web and in distance learning environments, as well as other
14 considerations; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the governor, the public education department,
17 the legislative education study committee and the coalition of
18 school administrators for appropriate distribution.