

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 45

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

James E. Smith

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO CREATE
A WORK GROUP TO STUDY CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND TO CONSIDER
THE EFFICACY OF ELECTING CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARDS AND TO
DETERMINE THE CONSTITUENT GROUPS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, in its infancy, a charter school is likely
governed by board members who helped establish the charter
school and who share in the original vision and mission of the
school; and

WHEREAS, as it evolves, a charter school may need to
change its curricular direction and even its vision, and may
need to have board members with new perspectives; and

WHEREAS, charter schools are experiments in self-
determination and, as such, should have a fair, democratic way
of choosing governing board members; and

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1 WHEREAS, charter school parents and staff should have a
2 say in determining who governs their school in the same way
3 communities select local school boards, namely, through the
4 election process; and

5 WHEREAS, charter schools, by their nature, serve undefined
6 geographic areas, which makes a general community-wide election
7 of governing board members problematic;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
10 committee be requested to name a work group to study how
11 charter school governing board members are selected, to look at
12 other states for their practices in this matter and to study
13 the efficacy of an election process for selecting members of
14 charter school governing boards; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group determine a
16 definition of the area of constituency for charter schools; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group include
18 representatives of the public education department and charter
19 schools; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group report to the
21 legislative education study committee by November 1, 2011 with
22 its findings and recommendations, including necessary statutory
23 changes; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study

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1 committee, the public education department and the New Mexico
2 coalition for charter schools.

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