

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 52

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

INTRODUCED BY

Lynda M. Lovejoy

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE AND THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO CONVENE A JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INDIAN EDUCATION ACT.

WHEREAS, it is the state's responsibility to ensure that New Mexico Indian children receive an education that values and respects the wisdom, knowledge, cultures and languages of tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, Indian children deserve a quality education to continue the legacy of strong Indian leadership for tribal nations and the state; and

WHEREAS, the national Indian education association has stated in its recommendations to improve the efficacy of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 that

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 federal and state agencies should collaborate with Indian
2 tribes to provide greater financial and technical support for
3 bureau of Indian education schools, including the opportunity
4 to utilize alternative measurement assessments and the
5 development of tribal adequate yearly progress or other annual
6 measurements of achievement; and

7 WHEREAS, the national Indian education association also
8 has stated in its recommendations to improve the efficacy of
9 the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 that
10 a tribal "teacher preparation initiative" be authorized and
11 geared toward educators working or interested in working at
12 Native American schools or wherever there are significant
13 numbers of Native American students enrolled; and

14 WHEREAS, the legislature established the Indian Education
15 Act to "ensure that the department of education partners with
16 tribes to increase tribal involvement and control over schools
17 and the education of students located in tribal communities";
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the Indian Education Act states the purpose of
20 that act is to "provide for the study, development and
21 implementation of educational systems that positively affect
22 the educational success of American Indian students"; and

23 WHEREAS, the 2009 New Mexico achievement gap solutions
24 summit convened by the office of the governor, public education
25 department and higher education department identified several

.185677.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 policy solutions to address the Native American achievement
2 gap, and these solutions include:

3 A. funding, implementing and enforcing the Indian
4 Education Act;

5 B. increasing the authority of the Indian education
6 advisory council;

7 C. ensuring that funds follow Indian students; and

8 D. redefining Native American student achievement
9 and developing alternative assessments;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study committee
12 and the interim legislative Indian affairs committee be
13 requested to convene a joint subcommittee composed of:

14 A. four members of the interim legislative Indian
15 affairs committee appointed by the committee co-chairs; and

16 B. three members of the legislative education study
17 committee appointed by the committee chair; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint subcommittee be
19 requested to:

20 A. examine the role of the Indian education
21 division of the public education department in improving the
22 academic achievement of the state's Native American students;

23 B. evaluate the role of the Indian education
24 advisory council in improving the academic achievement of the
25 state's Native American students;

.185677.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 C. study the effectiveness of the Indian Education
2 Act in improving the academic achievement of the state's Native
3 American students;

4 D. research and identify mechanisms to foster
5 parental involvement in the education of Native American
6 students;

7 E. reassess the utilization of funds to improve
8 Native American students' academic outcomes; and

9 F. develop an action plan with accompanying time
10 lines to improve Native American students' academic achievement
11 and narrow the achievement gap; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint subcommittee be
13 requested to make recommendations to the legislative education
14 study committee and the interim legislative Indian affairs
15 committee by October 1, 2011, and that the recommendations
16 should include:

17 A. identification of suggested amendments to the
18 Indian Education Act to increase the effectiveness of the act
19 in improving Native American students' academic outcomes;

20 B. suggested revisions to the formation, purpose,
21 duties and directive of the Indian education advisory council
22 to increase the effectiveness of the Indian Education Act in
23 improving Native American students' academic outcomes; and

24 C. proposed alternatives to the current methods of
25 funding for Indian education in New Mexico; and

.185677.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the co-chairs of the interim legislative Indian affairs committee, the director of the legislative education study committee, the secretary of public education and the secretary of Indian affairs.