

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE  
FEASIBILITY OF ADAPTING OREGON'S "PAY IT FORWARD" DEFERRED  
TUITION PAYMENT PROGRAM FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, since 1978, the cost of a college education has  
increased by one thousand one hundred twenty percent, more  
than any other good or service in the United States economy;  
and

WHEREAS, nationally, over two-thirds of college students  
who graduate from four-year colleges use student loans to help  
cover their educational costs; and

WHEREAS, nationally, two-thirds of college seniors  
graduated with loans in 2010 and carried an average of twenty-  
five thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$25,250) in debt per  
student; and

WHEREAS, as of 2012, the average student borrower had  
more than twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$29,000) in debt; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative student loan debt in the United  
States is over one trillion dollars (\$1,000,000,000,000), more  
than the nation's credit card debt; and

WHEREAS, the United States department of education has  
reported a sharp increase in the rate at which student loan  
borrowers are defaulting; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon legislature passed a comprehensive

measure to address the student college debt crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon measure, called "Pay It Forward", directs that state's higher education coordinating committee to examine and implement a pilot program and tuition freeze for Oregon's higher educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, "Pay It Forward" waives upfront tuition costs at the time of college attendance and defers them until participants are employed after completing college; and

WHEREAS, "Pay It Forward" requires participants in Oregon to pay back up to three percent of their income for twenty-four years, and such payments fund the waiver of tuition for current and future students; and

WHEREAS, "Pay It Forward" may serve as a model for addressing the student debt crisis in New Mexico;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative finance committee be requested to study the Oregon "Pay It Forward" model, focusing on the feasibility and ways to adapt the model for implementation in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance committee study the costs of implementing a "Pay It Forward" model in New Mexico and analyze the inclusion of the costs of fees, books, room and board, transportation and other costs of college attendance in its analysis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance

committee be requested to produce and publish on its web site, by October 1, 2014, a report of its study and an analysis of the benefits and detriments to implementing the "Pay It Forward" model in the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the legislative finance committee and the higher education department.