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HOUSE MEMORIAL 44

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

W. Ken Martinez

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

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1 than twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$29,000) in debt; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, the Oregon legislature passed a comprehensive
9 measure to address the student college debt crisis; and

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

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

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

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

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
25 finance committee be requested to study the Oregon "Pay It

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1 Forward" model, focusing on the feasibility and ways to adapt
2 the model for implementation in New Mexico; and

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

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance
9 committee be requested to produce and publish on its web site,
10 by October 1, 2014, a report of its study and an analysis of
11 the benefits and detriments to implementing the "Pay It
12 Forward" model in the state; and

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

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