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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Mark Boitano

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO CONDUCT
A STUDY OF THE CURRICULA AND GRADUATION CREDITS NECESSARY FOR
NEW MEXICO STUDENTS TO MEET STATE AND LOCAL CONTENT STANDARDS
IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE.**

**WHEREAS, current research shows that all students can
learn if they have access to a high quality curriculum; and**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico student achievement scores for
mathematics and science are among the lowest in the nation
according to national assessment of educational progress
testing results; and**

**WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has adopted content
standards and benchmarks in mathematics and science; and**

**WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has adopted performance
standards in mathematics and science; and**

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1 WHEREAS, local school districts in New Mexico are in the
2 process of aligning curricula with the new standards; and

3 WHEREAS, one of the seven issues in the state board of
4 education strategic plan is equitable access and opportunity;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, current graduation requirements may not provide
7 all students the opportunities to meet all the standards; and

8 WHEREAS, current research demonstrates that mastery of
9 algebraic concepts is important in terms of educational equity,
10 and completion of a basic algebra course provides students with
11 the opportunity to enroll in higher level mathematics courses,
12 thereby gaining confidence and proficiency that will provide
13 educational and employment advantages; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico has three national laboratories that
15 provide tremendous career opportunities for students with
16 strong backgrounds in mathematics and science; and

17 WHEREAS, a detailed study of the number and type of
18 science and mathematics credits necessary for graduation and
19 high achievement will assist school districts and the state
20 board of education in identifying ways to improve student
21 achievement in mathematics and science;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
24 education be requested to conduct a thorough study of the
25 curricula and graduation credits necessary to meet state and

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1 local content standards in mathematics and science; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
3 state department of public education involve a broad range of
4 New Mexicans, including students, parents, teachers, university
5 professors, leaders of teacher preparation programs and those
6 supporting mathematics, science and technology reform,
7 administrators, the commission on higher education, staff from
8 the national laboratories and other interested persons; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a research report be presented
10 to the legislative education study committee and other
11 appropriate legislative interim committees by August 15, 2001;
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the chairman of the legislative education study
15 committee, the chairmen of other appropriate legislative
16 interim committees and the superintendent of public
17 instruction.