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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 39

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Shirley M. Bailey

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONDUCT A STUDY AND PROVIDE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ADDRESS THE NURSING SHORTAGE.

WHEREAS, one hundred twenty-six thousand nurses are needed to fill hospital vacancies nationwide; and

WHEREAS, vacancy rates in New Mexico are approximately twenty percent for registered nurses, twelve to fifteen percent for licensed practical nurses and eleven to twenty percent for certified nursing assistants; and

WHEREAS, vacancies for nursing positions with the public health division of the department of health exceed one hundred; and

WHEREAS, the average age of registered nurses is over forty-three years nationally and over forty-six years in New

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1 Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, nurses are critical to the effective delivery of
3 health care in hospitals, home care, hospice care,
4 institutional facilities, clinics and physician offices; and

5 WHEREAS, the aging population and its anticipated
6 increased longevity will place a tremendous demand on the need
7 for nurses;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
10 to conduct a study that includes:

11 A. an assessment of the financial support required
12 for effective recruitment and retention of nurses for
13 underserved areas;

14 B. identification of incentives for nurses to
15 relocate to underserved areas;

16 C. findings and recommendations on the creation of
17 a center for nursing excellence;

18 D. collection and evaluation of data on the nature
19 of the state's nursing work force;

20 E. a review of the feasibility for multistate or
21 regional nurse licensure;

22 F. recommendations for the development of state-
23 supported education programs to allow rapid realignment of
24 existing programs or development of new programs;

25 G. recommendations on the creation of a nursing

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1 program education development fund to be used as seed money
2 for the rapid development of new programs; and

3 H. recommendations on the appropriate funding
4 levels for faculty positions in all nursing programs,
5 including Ph.D. faculty positions; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
7 report its findings to the legislative health subcommittee or
8 an appropriate interim committee by October 1, 2002; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the department of health.

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