

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 54

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Michael S. Sanchez

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE
12 THE CORRELATION BETWEEN SECONDARY SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES AND
13 SUBSTANCE ABUSE DURING THE INTERIM AND RECOMMEND CORRECTIVE
14 REMEDIES AVAILABLE FOR ALL OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE
15 TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

16
17 WHEREAS, New Mexico loses approximately thirty-three
18 percent of students entering ninth grade prior to graduating
19 from high school, which approximates sixty-seven students per
20 school day from all of the state's school districts; and

21 WHEREAS, national data reveal that approximately
22 twenty-seven percent of New Mexico students experiment with
23 alcohol prior to age thirteen, compared to the national average
24 of twenty percent; and

25 WHEREAS, approximately forty percent of students

.193594.1

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

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

1 experiment with or use marijuana between grades nine and
2 twelve, according to a national poll; and

3 WHEREAS, approximately eleven percent of students in
4 grades nine through twelve experiment with or use inhalants,
5 according to a national poll; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately five percent of New Mexico students
7 in grades nine through twelve experiment with or use cocaine;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, approximately eight percent of New Mexico
10 students in grades nine through twelve experiment with or use
11 prescription pain medication; and

12 WHEREAS, five percent of New Mexico students needed
13 treatment for alcohol abuse and six percent for illicit drug
14 abuse but did not receive treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, preparation of the future work force of the state
16 is a primary and fundamental building block of economic
17 development; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico has numerous post-secondary programs
19 available for the development of professional and career needs
20 through universities, community colleges, vocational training
21 institutions and private training programs; and

22 WHEREAS, the percentage of graduating secondary school
23 students may be substantially increased by reducing the dropout
24 rate by providing long-term alternatives to student
25 experimentation with or abuse of drugs;

.193594.1

