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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF DIFFERENT HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a population of slightly over two million people, with fewer than three hundred twenty-five thousand people aged eighteen to thirty; and

WHEREAS, the state has seven constitutionally created colleges and universities, with a total of ten branches and several educational centers, and seven community colleges created by school districts; and

WHEREAS, only the three research institutions, the university of New Mexico, New Mexico institute of mining and technology and New Mexico state university, offer doctoral degrees; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a state that funds higher education through a funding formula appropriated from the general fund for instruction and general purposes, athletics, other expenses and research and public service projects; and

WHEREAS, in a time of decreasing resources, the state needs to investigate ways to provide higher education in the most efficient and effective ways possible; and

WHEREAS, there are several states that have one or two unitary systems with single governing boards and centralized

1 administrations for public colleges and universities; some  
2 states have centralized administration only of community and  
3 technical colleges; and some states have similar governance  
4 structures to that of New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, a joint report from the national center for  
6 public policy and higher education and the national center  
7 for higher education management systems, *Good Policy, Good*  
8 *Practice, Improving Outcomes and Productivity in Higher*  
9 *Education: A Guide for Policymakers*, made the point that  
10 "[a] principal cause of inefficiency is a 'go-it-alone'  
11 campus mentality reinforced by state funding mechanisms that  
12 reward institutions for competition instead of  
13 collaboration."; and

14 WHEREAS, some research indicates mixed results and  
15 satisfaction with either unitary systems or decentralized  
16 administration of colleges and universities, and the idea is  
17 worthy of study in New Mexico to determine which system would  
18 work best for the state; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexicans want a higher education governance  
20 system that will provide better education for students,  
21 foster satisfaction of faculty and staff, lead to better  
22 graduation rates, cut administrative overhead and result in  
23 more of the higher education funding going to support and  
24 educate students at the undergraduate and graduate levels,  
25 rather than going to administration and overhead; and

1           WHEREAS, the higher education department has convened a  
2 statewide higher education strategic planning committee  
3 involving stakeholders from higher education, public  
4 education, the business community and the executive and  
5 legislative branches of state government;

6           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department,  
8 through the statewide higher education strategic planning  
9 committee, be requested to study the costs and benefits of  
10 the current New Mexico higher education governance systems in  
11 comparison with other systems, including unitary systems and  
12 their variations and any other systems the department  
13 determines should be studied; and

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the boards of regents and  
15 administrations of state colleges and universities and the  
16 governing boards of public community colleges assist the  
17 higher education department as requested by the department;  
18 and

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education  
20 department report its findings to the second session of the  
21 fifty-third legislature; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the boards  
24 of regents and presidents and provosts of the state colleges  
25 and universities and the governing boards and presidents of

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the public community colleges. \_\_\_\_\_