

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WORKING WITH THE  
3 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO  
4 REVIEW THE ADEQUACY, APPROPRIATENESS AND ALIGNMENT OF BRANCH  
5 AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE STATUTES AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS  
6 FOR STATUTORY CHANGES.

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8 WHEREAS, New Mexico statutes relating to the  
9 organization and operation of two-year post-secondary  
10 educational institutions and programs have evolved in a  
11 piecemeal, haphazard way over many years; and

12 WHEREAS, these statutes include those for branch  
13 community colleges in Chapter 21, Article 14 NMSA 1978, first  
14 codified by the New Mexico legislature in 1957, under which  
15 four branch community college campuses of New Mexico state  
16 university, four campuses of the university of New Mexico and  
17 two campuses of eastern New Mexico university currently  
18 operate; and

19 WHEREAS, these statutes include the Community College  
20 Act, enacted by the New Mexico legislature in 1963, under  
21 which six locally governed community colleges currently  
22 operate; and

23 WHEREAS, these statutes include the Technical and  
24 Vocational Institute Act, enacted in 1963, under which  
25 central New Mexico community college currently operates; and

1           WHEREAS, these statutes include the Off-Campus  
2 Instruction Act, enacted in 1982, under which no institutions  
3 currently operate; and

4           WHEREAS, these statutes also include the College  
5 District Tax Act, the Learning Center Act and the Workforce  
6 Training Act, among others; and

7           WHEREAS, some provisions in these statutes may be  
8 obsolete, duplicative or no longer relevant to current  
9 practice; and

10          WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature needs a review and  
11 update of these statutes to ensure that the legal framework  
12 relating to two-year post-secondary educational institutions  
13 is adequate, appropriate and aligned to current and future  
14 requirements;

15          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be  
17 requested to appoint a "branch and community college task  
18 force" to conduct a thorough review of all relevant  
19 New Mexico statutes of adequacy, appropriateness and  
20 alignment and to develop recommendations for modification to  
21 be presented to the second session of the fifty-third  
22 legislature; and

23          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be appointed  
24 by the secretary of higher education, in consultation with  
25 the secretary of public education and branch and community

1 college presidents; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership  
3 include geographic and demographic representation that is  
4 reflective of New Mexico; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop  
6 recommendations to be presented to the appropriate  
7 legislative committees by December 1, 2017 for consideration  
8 by the 2018 legislature; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the  
11 secretary of public education and the presidents of the  
12 state's branch and community colleges. \_\_\_\_\_

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