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SENATE MEMORIAL 22

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

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

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

WHEREAS, these statutes include those for branch community colleges in Chapter 21, Article 14 NMSA 1978, first codified by the New Mexico legislature in 1957, under which four branch community college campuses of New Mexico state university, four campuses of the university of New Mexico and two campuses of

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1 eastern New Mexico university currently operate; and

2 WHEREAS, these statutes include the Community College Act,  
3 enacted by the New Mexico legislature in 1963, under which six  
4 locally governed community colleges currently operate; and

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

8 WHEREAS, these statutes include the Off-Campus Instruction  
9 Act, enacted in 1982, under which no institutions currently  
10 operate; and

11 WHEREAS, these statutes also include the College District  
12 Tax Act, the Learning Center Act and the Workforce Training  
13 Act, among others; and

14 WHEREAS, some provisions in these statutes may be  
15 obsolete, duplicative or no longer relevant to current  
16 practice; and

17 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature needs a review and  
18 update of these statutes to ensure that the legal framework  
19 relating to two-year post-secondary educational institutions is  
20 adequate, appropriate and aligned to current and future  
21 requirements;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be requested  
24 to appoint a "branch and community college task force" to  
25 conduct a thorough review of all relevant New Mexico statutes

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1 of adequacy, appropriateness and alignment and to develop  
2 recommendations for modification to be presented to the second  
3 session of the fifty-third legislature; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be appointed by  
5 the secretary of higher education, in consultation with the  
6 secretary of public education and branch and community college  
7 presidents; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership  
9 include geographic and demographic representation that is  
10 reflective of New Mexico; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop  
12 recommendations to be presented to the appropriate legislative  
13 committees by December 1, 2017 for consideration by the 2018  
14 legislature; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the secretary  
17 of public education and the presidents of the state's branch  
18 and community colleges.

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