

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 10

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY MEANS AND
12 STRATEGIES TO CREATE LIFELONG VOTERS.
13

14 WHEREAS, automatic voter registration is a policy in which
15 residents can quickly register to vote through interactions
16 with state agencies and, most commonly, when renewing their
17 driver's licenses; and

18 WHEREAS, automatic voter registration removes barriers to
19 registration for eligible voters; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2019, the legislature passed Senate Bill 672,
21 which provided same-day and automatic voter registration; and

22 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Election Code, any qualified
23 resident may register to vote and shall become a voter upon the
24 resident's eighteenth birthday; and

25 WHEREAS, according to the United States census bureau,

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1 younger voters, particularly people age eighteen to twenty-
2 four, tend to vote at lower rates than the general population;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, according to the national election pool, young
5 voters cast only fourteen percent of all ballots during the
6 2024 election; and

7 WHEREAS, a 2020 analysis by Tufts university indicated
8 that youth voter registration was higher in states that have
9 automatic voter registration; and

10 WHEREAS, schools and educational institutions are vital
11 for encouraging civic engagement and for energizing students to
12 participate in democracy; and

13 WHEREAS, the state must increase its efforts to encourage
14 voting and civic engagement in the student bodies of its public
15 schools, colleges and universities; and

16 WHEREAS, high school and higher educational institution
17 voter registration programs, including those that provide
18 automatic voter registration, can be an effective way to foster
19 voter participation, civic duty and the civic responsibility of
20 voting in students;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department, in
23 consultation with political scientists, be requested to study
24 the role of public institutions in civic engagement,
25 particularly voting, and the means and strategies to encourage

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1 high school and higher education students to become lifelong
2 voters; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
4 department be requested to use the findings of this study to
5 draft a legislative proposal to address youth voter turnout;
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the secretary
9 of higher education and the secretary of state.