

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO
CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE CURRICULA AND GRADUATION CREDITS
NECESSARY FOR NEW MEXICO STUDENTS TO MEET STATE AND LOCAL
CONTENT STANDARDS IN MATH AND SCIENCE.

WHEREAS, current research shows that all students can
learn if they have access to a high quality curriculum; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico student achievement scores for math
and science are among the lowest in the nation according to
national assessment of educational progress testing results;
and

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has adopted content
standards and benchmarks in mathematics and science; and

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has adopted performance
standards in mathematics and science; and

WHEREAS, local school districts in New Mexico are in the

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1 process of aligning curricula with the new standards; and

2 WHEREAS, one of the seven issues in the state board of
3 education strategic plan is equitable access and opportunity;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, current graduation requirements may not provide
6 all students the opportunities to meet all the standards; and

7 WHEREAS, current research demonstrates that mastery of
8 algebraic concepts is important in terms of educational
9 equity, and completion of a basic algebra course provides
10 students with the opportunity to enroll in higher level math
11 courses, thereby gaining confidence and proficiency that will
12 provide educational and employment advantages; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico has three national laboratories that
14 provide tremendous career opportunities for students with
15 strong backgrounds in math and science; and

16 WHEREAS, a detailed study of the number and type or kind
17 of science and mathematics credits necessary for graduation
18 and high achievement will assist school districts and the
19 state board of education in identifying ways to improve
20 student achievement in math and science;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
23 education be requested to conduct a thorough study of the
24 curricula and graduation credits necessary to meet state and
25 local content standards in math and science; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
state department of public education involve a broad range of

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1 New Mexicans to include students, parents, teachers,
2 university professors, leaders of teacher preparation
3 programs and those supporting math, science and technology
4 reform, administrators, the commission on higher education,
5 staff from the national laboratories and other interested
6 persons; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a research report be
8 presented to the legislative education study committee and
9 other appropriate legislative interim committees by August
10 15, 2000; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the chairman of the legislative education
13 study committee, the chairmen of other appropriate
14 legislative interim committees and the superintendent of
15 public instruction.