

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 11

2 **45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mary Kay Papen

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8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO STUDY THE
12 FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJORS TO MINOR
13 IN THE TEACHING OF READING.

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15 WHEREAS, improving reading proficiency in New Mexico has
16 been a legislative priority since 2000; and

17 WHEREAS, studies show that children who cannot recognize
18 their names in writing before they start kindergarten are
19 already behind in learning to read; and

20 WHEREAS, reading is inextricably tied to educational
21 success or failure, and the inability to read affects the
22 student dropout rate and many of the social problems that go
23 along with students dropping out of school and not achieving
24 their potential; and

25 WHEREAS, studies show that children, youth and adults who
cannot read are disadvantaged in competing for jobs in today's
high technology work force, cannot make intelligent consumer
choices and cannot participate fully as citizens; and

WHEREAS, while teacher preparation programs offer three

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1 to nine credit hours in reading for teacher certification,
2 some of these hours may not emphasize basic reading skills or
3 incorporate the most recent research or necessary knowledge to
4 teach reading; and

5 WHEREAS, research indicates that some elementary level
6 teacher preparation programs in other states that include the
7 requirement of a minor in the teaching of reading are
8 demonstrating improved student reading achievement;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commission on higher education,
11 in collaboration with the state department of public
12 education, be requested to study the feasibility of
13 instituting a minor in the teaching of reading as a
14 requirement for granting teacher certification in elementary
15 education; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission on higher
17 education report to the legislative education study committee
18 by August 2002; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the commission on higher education and the
21 director of the legislative education study committee for
22 appropriate distribution.

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