

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 2
2 46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION,
3 2003

4 INTRODUCED BY
5 John A. Heaton
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9 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
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11 A JOINT MEMORIAL
12 REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE EFFICACY OF COMBINING THE PUBLIC
13 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT
14 SYSTEM
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16 WHEREAS, based on statistics collected by the state
17 department of public education, New Mexico is facing a shortage
18 of teachers as a result of retirements, resignations and
19 difficulties attracting and retaining quality individuals to
20 the profession; and

21 WHEREAS, to address this shortage and to attract and
22 retain quality professionals, the legislature has supported
23 several measures in the recent past, including establishing
24 alternative teacher licensing programs, the teacher loan-for-
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1 service program, teacher recruitment initiatives, professional
2 development initiatives and beginning teacher mentorship; and

3 WHEREAS, research confirms that teacher quality is the
4 single most influential determinant of student academic
5 success, outside of home and family circumstances; and

6 WHEREAS, the lack of parity between retirement benefits of
7 the educational retirement system and the public employees
8 retirement system may be a contributing factor to the teacher
9 shortage in New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, the disparity between the retirement benefits of
11 public employees and educators has been a growing concern since
12 the 1994 amendments to the Public Employees Retirement Act that
13 enhanced retirement benefits; and

14 WHEREAS, movement toward parity between the two systems
15 may serve to attract and retain teachers statewide and provide
16 a high quality education for the children of New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, members of the legislature have attempted to
18 correct this disparity since 1994; however, all efforts to do
19 so have been unsuccessful;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the educational retirement board be
22 requested to update the parity study conducted in 2000; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the educational retirement
24 board and the public employees retirement association be
25 requested to study the effects of combining the educational

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1 retirement system and the public employees retirement system
2 into one retirement system; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results and findings of
4 these studies and any recommendations be reported to the
5 legislative education study committee by November 2003; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the educational retirement board, the public
8 employees retirement association and the director of the
9 legislative education study committee for appropriate
10 distribution.

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