1	HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 11
2	46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Miguel P. Garcia
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10	A JOINT MEMORIAL
11	REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ELIMINATE THE
12	ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT OF THE SPANISH GENERAL
13	EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TESTS.
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15	WHEREAS, the New Mexico general educational development
16	testing program of the public education department administers
17	the general educational development tests to persons who have
18	not graduated from an accredited high school; and
19	WHEREAS, general educational development certificates are
20	issued to residents who have successfully completed the general
21	educational development tests; and
22	WHEREAS, to successfully complete the general educational
23	development tests, a person must pass tests in writing, social
24	studies, science, mathematics and art and literature; and
25	WHEREAS, the New Mexico general educational development
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<u>underscored mterial = new</u> [bracketed mterial] = delete testing program of the public education department also administers a Spanish language version of the general educational development tests; and

WHEREAS, the program requires persons taking the Spanish language version of the general educational development tests to pass an English proficiency subject in addition to the writing, social studies, science, mathematics and art and literature subjects required by the English language version of the general educational development tests; and

WHEREAS, the additional subject matter is burdensome to test takers who choose to take the Spanish language version of the general educational development tests because they are not yet proficient in English; and

WHEREAS, other states do not impose the additional English proficiency requirement on general educational development test takers; and

WHEREAS, several employers require at least a general educational development certificate or a high school diploma for certain positions of employment; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico residents who did not successfully complete the general educational development tests due to the English proficiency requirement must compete with job applicants from other states who successfully completed the general educational development tests in other states without meeting an English proficiency requirement; and

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WHEREAS, in-state residents who choose to improve their academic and economic status by taking the general educational development tests should not be penalized for taking the tests in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the English proficiency requirement from the general educational development tests in New Mexico will reduce the inequities that burden in-state test takers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be requested to eliminate the English language proficiency requirement necessary for successful completion of the general educational development tests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of public education and the program director of the general educational development testing program of the public education department.

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