

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 80

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER
LICENSURE SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, House Joint Memorial 1 of the first session of the forty-fifth legislature in 2001 requested that a study be conducted of the feasibility of developing standards for licensure of sign language interpreters in the state by the New Mexico school for the deaf and the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons; and

WHEREAS, the study demonstrated the need to pursue the establishment of a licensure system for interpreters for the deaf and hard-of-hearing; and

WHEREAS, the study demonstrated the licensure system should be regulated and administered by a regulating board established under the regulation and licensing department; and

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1 WHEREAS, access to quality communication and information
2 impacts access to health care, vocational and business
3 opportunities, higher and continuing education, governmental
4 services and full participation in the democratic process, as
5 well as all other aspects of community life; and

6 WHEREAS, a collaborative effort between the New Mexico
7 school for the deaf and the public education department
8 resulted in the education of the deaf and hard-of-hearing 2003
9 task force report, "Toward Brighter Futures"; and

10 WHEREAS, the 2003 task force report called for "the
11 provision of communicatively fluent staff, adult role models
12 and communication-accessible program components and resources,
13 including skilled interpreters"; and

14 WHEREAS, the forty-sixth legislature of New Mexico passed
15 the "Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children's Educational Bill of
16 Rights", which stated the public education department, the New
17 Mexico school for the deaf and the department of health are to
18 ensure that "...these children have what every other child
19 takes for granted, including an educational environment in
20 which their language and communication needs are fully
21 addressed and developed and in which they have early, ongoing
22 and quality access to planned and incidental communication
23 opportunities.";

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a state evaluation and licensure

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1 system for sign language interpreters is needed; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission for deaf and
3 hard-of-hearing persons, the public education department, the
4 regulation and licensing department and the New Mexico school
5 for the deaf be requested to collaborate to develop and
6 recommend a sign language licensure mechanism for the state;
7 and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations resulting
9 from this collaboration be reported no later than January 30,
10 2006 to the appropriate legislative committee as deemed by the
11 New Mexico legislative council; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 sent to the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons,
14 the public education department, the regulation and licensing
15 department and the New Mexico school for the deaf.

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