

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 19

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO LEAD A  
12 STUDY TO IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM OF HIGHER  
13 EDUCATION IN NEW MEXICO FOR 2012.

14  
15 WHEREAS, higher education in New Mexico will account for  
16 nearly eight hundred million dollars (\$800,000,000) from the  
17 general fund in fiscal year 2010; and

18 WHEREAS, there are twenty-four post-secondary educational  
19 institutions and over sixty sites in New Mexico, a state with a  
20 population of approximately two million; and

21 WHEREAS, the six state-funded universities have ten  
22 branch community colleges and thirty-nine educational sites;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, according to Curt Porter, chair, higher  
25 education funding task force; Dr. Viola Florez, former

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1 secretary, higher education department; and Hipolito "Paul"  
2 Aguilar, principal analyst, legislative finance committee, in  
3 testimony before the interim government restructuring task  
4 force, the funding formula for higher education is not aligned  
5 with many of the state's policy goals for higher education; and

6 WHEREAS, these same individuals raised several specific  
7 concerns with the funding formula, among them that the formula  
8 funds inputs, but ignores outcomes; that the formula has too  
9 many cost variables; that, in order to increase enrollment and  
10 therefore increase funding, institutions are expanding the  
11 number and scope of programs, irrespective of service area or  
12 mission; and several additional concerns; and

13 WHEREAS, the state's institutions of higher learning are  
14 controlled by constitutionally established boards of regents  
15 that have absolute control over their institutions, limiting  
16 the ability of state policymakers to make changes to the system  
17 of higher education; and

18 WHEREAS, the provision of higher education is becoming  
19 increasingly more complex with both internal and external  
20 relationships of educational institutions growing more and more  
21 interdependent; and

22 WHEREAS, the state master plan for education identifies a  
23 vision that "New Mexico's higher education system will aspire  
24 to be the global standard of quality, value, relevance and  
25 accessibility" through the provision of a high-quality, post-

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1 secondary education regardless of financial need, without  
2 unnecessary duplication and that preserves institutional  
3 flexibility; and

4 WHEREAS, in order to achieve the vision, the state master  
5 plan for education identifies recommendations for preparedness  
6 of students, financial aid, a comprehensive student data  
7 warehouse, distance education, workforce and economic  
8 development, funding, capital outlay and governance; and

9 WHEREAS, the interim government restructuring task force  
10 heard testimony regarding higher education in four of its ten  
11 meetings during the 2010 interim with topics covering "Big  
12 Ideas, Innovative Options", the state master plan for higher  
13 education, the higher education funding formula and suggestions  
14 for cost-savings and efficiencies at two-year and four-year  
15 post-secondary educational institutions; and

16 WHEREAS, despite the attention paid to higher education,  
17 the government restructuring task force was unable to make any  
18 substantive legislative recommendations to reform the higher  
19 education governance system or funding formula; and

20 WHEREAS, the government restructuring task force, the  
21 legislative finance committee, the higher education department,  
22 the higher education funding formula task force and others  
23 agreed that an in-depth study of the higher education funding  
24 formula and the policy drivers behind the formula is of  
25 critical importance to the state; and

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1           WHEREAS, the legislative education study committee has a  
2 statutory obligation to conduct a continuing study of all  
3 education in New Mexico, the laws governing such education, and  
4 the policies and costs of the New Mexico educational system and  
5 to recommend changes in laws relating to education, if any are  
6 deemed desirable;

7           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study  
9 committee be requested to lead a study to identify and  
10 recommend changes to the system of higher education in New  
11 Mexico for 2012; and

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education  
13 department, the council of university presidents, New Mexico  
14 independent colleges and the New Mexico association of  
15 community colleges and others be consulted in the  
16 accomplishment of the study; and

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education  
18 department integrate the findings and recommendations of the  
19 study with the recommendations contained in the state master  
20 plan for higher education; and

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that specific legislative  
22 recommendations be developed for consideration for endorsement  
23 by the legislative education study committee; and

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
25 transmitted to the legislative education study committee and

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the secretary of higher education.

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