

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 12

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pete Campos

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WORKING WITH THE
12 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW
13 THE ADEQUACY, APPROPRIATENESS AND ALIGNMENT OF BRANCH AND
14 COMMUNITY COLLEGE STATUTES AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
15 STATUTORY CHANGES.

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17 WHEREAS, New Mexico statutes relating to the organization
18 and operation of two-year post-secondary institutions and
19 programs have evolved in a piecemeal, haphazard way over many
20 years; and

21 WHEREAS, these statutes include those for branch community
22 colleges in Chapter 21, Article 14 NMSA 1978, first codified by
23 the New Mexico legislature in 1957, under which four branch
24 community college campuses of New Mexico state university, four
25 campuses of the university of New Mexico and two campuses of

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1 eastern New Mexico university currently operate; and

2 WHEREAS, these statutes include the Community College Act,
3 enacted by the New Mexico legislature in 1963, under which six
4 locally governed community colleges currently operate; and

5 WHEREAS, these statutes include the Technical and
6 Vocational Institute Act, enacted in 1963, under which the
7 central New Mexico community college currently operates; and

8 WHEREAS, these statutes include the Off-Campus Instruction
9 Act, enacted in 1982, under which no institutions currently
10 operate; and

11 WHEREAS, these statutes also include the College District
12 Tax Act, the Learning Center Act and the Workforce Training
13 Act, among others; and

14 WHEREAS, some provisions in these statutes may be
15 obsolete, duplicative or no longer relevant to current
16 practice; and

17 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature needs a review and
18 update of these statutes to ensure that the legal framework
19 relating to two-year post-secondary institutions is adequate,
20 appropriate and aligned to current and future requirements;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be
23 requested to appoint a "branch and community college task
24 force" to conduct a thorough review of all relevant New Mexico
25 statutes of adequacy, appropriateness and alignment and to

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1 develop recommendations for modification to be presented to the
2 second session of the fifty-second legislature; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be appointed by
4 the secretary of higher education, in consultation with the
5 secretary of public education and branch and community college
6 presidents; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership
8 include geographic and demographic representation that is
9 reflective of the state of New Mexico; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop
11 recommendations to be presented to the appropriate legislative
12 committees by December 1, 2015 for consideration by the 2016
13 legislature; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the secretary
16 of public education and the presidents of the state's branch
17 and community colleges.