HOUSE MEMORIAL 31

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Miguel P. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT REFORM OF NEW MEXICO'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
INCLUDE LEARNING ABOUT ACEQUIAS AND LAND GRANTS AS PART OF A
MULTICULTURAL AND EQUITABLE EDUCATION FOR DIVERSE STUDENT
POPULATIONS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to cultures and communities
with diverse student populations that are deserving of an
equitable, sufficient and meaningful education; and

WHEREAS, because of limited resources, schools are not
able to integrate learning about cultural resources and assets
in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, decades of inadequate resources for schools have
resulted in racial, economic and educational disparities that
rank among the worst in the country; and

WHEREAS, in a landmark decision, a court ruled in the

.216934.1

1   *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* case that the state must

2   take immediate steps to support students; and

3   WHEREAS, the decision also highlighted the need for

4   multicultural and multilingual learning opportunities that

5   respond to cultures, languages and heritages of diverse student

6   populations; and

7   WHEREAS, acequias and land grants are vital parts of New

8   Mexico's culture, history and social fabric and continue to be

9   relevant in community development in rural communities

10   throughout the state; and

11   WHEREAS, culturally relevant education in New Mexico

12   should include the study of the historical development of

13   acequia and land grant communities and the contemporary issues

14   and challenges they face; and

15   WHEREAS, research shows that a multicultural and

16   multilingual approach to education allows students to maintain

17   their language and cultural identity, which contributes to

18   their well-being and performance in school;

19   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

20   REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that education about

21   acequias and land grants be part of a broader transformation of

22   education in New Mexico to ensure sufficient and equitable

23   education for diverse student populations; and

24   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education

25   department be requested to develop methods to integrate

.216934.1

1   learning about acequias and land grants into the curriculum and

2   that the higher education department be requested to train and

3   develop educators for multicultural curriculum development; and

4   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the center for the education

5   and study of diverse populations and the Ben Lujan leadership

6   and public policy institute at New Mexico highlands university

7   be requested to convene educators, community leaders and

8   stakeholders to develop and provide recommendations to the

9   public education department and higher education department on

10   how to reshape New Mexico's educational system to include a

11   culturally relevant curriculum that includes acequias and land

12   grants; and

13   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico acequia

14   association, acequia commission, land grant council and New

15   Mexico land grant consejo be requested to develop and provide

16   recommendations to the public education department and higher

17   education department for integration of acequias and land

18   grants into multicultural curriculum development; and

19   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

20   transmitted to the secretary of public education, the secretary

21   of higher education, the president of New Mexico highlands

22   university, the chair of the acequia commission, the executive

23   director of the New Mexico acequia association, the chair of

24   the land grant council and the president of the New Mexico land

25   grant consejo.

.216934.1