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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 53
44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999
INTRODUCED BY
Judy Vanderstar Russell

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE LAWS ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND TO
PREPARE A BILL FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FORTY-FIFTH
LEGISLATURE TO IMPROVE NEW MEXICO'S SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND
GRADUATION RATES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks among the lowest in per capita
income among the fifty states; and

WHEREAS, education and training are often cited as the
most important criteria for attracting industry and
stimulating the economy; and

WHEREAS, statistics on school attendance and dropout
rates in New Mexico are inexact and inconsistently collected
and maintained, but, according to the best available national
statistics, New Mexico has a dropout rate of eight and

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1 one-half percent annually, which is twice the national average
2 according to some experts; and

3 WHEREAS, statistics describing the dropout rate do not
4 include children who never registered to go to high school;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a dropout problem even among
7 elementary-age students; and

8 WHEREAS, some estimates indicate that between thirty and
9 forty percent of high school freshmen drop out before
10 graduation; and

11 WHEREAS, many schools indicate that attendance in the
12 classroom is very low relative to schools in other states; and

13 WHEREAS, several school districts have addressed the
14 dropout problem with alternative schools or alternative
15 curricula; and

16 WHEREAS, some states have enacted tougher compulsory
17 attendance laws that may provide effective incentives for
18 remaining in school;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
21 committee be requested to study school attendance and to
22 prepare legislation for the first session of the forty-fifth
23 legislature to improve graduation and school attendance rates;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education

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1 study committee submit its findings and recommendations to the
2 legislature by January 1, 2001; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the chairman and the director of the
5 legislative education study committee.

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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

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5
6 February 24, 1999

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8 Mr. Speaker:

9
10 Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

11
12 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 53

13
14 has had it under consideration and reports same with
15 recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:

16
17 1. On page 1, line 13, after "BILL" insert ", IF
18 NECESSARY,".

19
20 2. On page 2, line 22, after "legislation" insert ", if
21 necessary,".

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

HEC/HJM 53

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Respectfully submitted,

Rick Mi era, Chai rman

Adopted _____

Not Adopted _____

(Chi ef Clerk)

(Chi ef Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 13 For 0 Against

Yes: 13

Excused: Burpo, Marquardt, Wright

Absent: None

J: \99BillSW\HJ053

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