

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 12

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE COSTS
AND BENEFITS OF DIFFERENT HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a population of slightly over two million people, with fewer than three hundred twenty-five thousand people aged eighteen to thirty; and

WHEREAS, the state has seven constitutionally created colleges and universities, with a total of ten branches and several educational centers, and seven community colleges created by school districts; and

WHEREAS, only the three research institutions, the university of New Mexico, New Mexico institute of mining and technology and New Mexico state university, offer doctoral degrees; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a state that funds higher education

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1 through a funding formula appropriated from the general fund
2 for instruction and general purposes, athletics, other expenses
3 and research and public service projects; and

4 WHEREAS, in a time of decreasing resources, the state
5 needs to investigate ways to provide higher education in the
6 most efficient and effective ways possible; and

7 WHEREAS, there are several states that have one or two
8 unitary systems with single governing boards and centralized
9 administrations for public colleges and universities; some
10 states have centralized administration only of community and
11 technical colleges; and some states have similar governance
12 structures to that of New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, a joint report from the national center for
14 public policy and higher education and the national center for
15 higher education management systems, *Good Policy, Good
16 Practice, Improving Outcomes and Productivity in Higher
17 Education: A Guide for Policymakers*, made the point that "[a]
18 principal cause of inefficiency is a 'go-it-alone' campus
19 mentality reinforced by state funding mechanisms that reward
20 institutions for competition instead of collaboration."; and

21 WHEREAS, some research indicates mixed results and
22 satisfaction with either unitary systems or decentralized
23 administration of colleges and universities, and the idea is
24 worthy of study in New Mexico to determine which system would
25 work best for the state; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexicans want a higher education governance
2 system that will provide better education for students, foster
3 satisfaction of faculty and staff, lead to better graduation
4 rates, cut administrative overhead and result in more of the
5 higher education funding going to support and educate students
6 at the undergraduate and graduate levels, rather than going to
7 administration and overhead;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be
10 requested to study the costs and benefits of the current New
11 Mexico higher education governance systems in comparison with
12 other systems, including unitary systems and their variations
13 and any other systems the department determines should be
14 studied; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the boards of regents and
16 administrations of state colleges and universities and the
17 governing boards of public community colleges assist the higher
18 education department as requested by the department; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
20 department report its findings to the second session of the
21 fifty-third legislature; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the boards of
24 regents and presidents and provosts of the state colleges and
25 universities and the governing boards and presidents of the

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1 public community colleges.

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