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HOUSE MEMORIAL 46

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Nathan P. Small

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY FUNDING FOR THE DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM AND TO RECOMMEND A SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF THE DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the public education department and the higher education department collaborate and coordinate on and drive college and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, every New Mexico high school student has the opportunity to enroll in college courses through the dual credit program established by state law; and

WHEREAS, the dual credit program provides access to academic and career and technical education courses that deliver simultaneous credit toward high school graduation and a

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1 post-secondary degree or certificate; and

2 WHEREAS, dual credit is shown to increase high school
3 graduation rates and accelerate attainment of post-secondary
4 credentials; and

5 WHEREAS, dual credit courses are tied to many of New
6 Mexico's middle-skills jobs and may help fill current workforce
7 gaps; and

8 WHEREAS, dual credit courses may provide return on
9 investment of state dollars to benefit New Mexico families and
10 the state; and

11 WHEREAS, college courses are offered for dual credit based
12 upon agreements between high schools and accredited public
13 colleges; and

14 WHEREAS, administrative rules require that dual credit
15 agreements require public colleges to waive tuition for
16 students, local education agencies to purchase instructional
17 materials and students and parents to cover course fees and
18 transportation expenses; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico's higher education system bears a
20 heavy cost burden within the current funding structure of the
21 dual credit program; and

22 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to form a task force to
23 study the actual costs to deliver dual credit course
24 instruction and the current funding structure and propose
25 solutions to adequately compensate higher education for course

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1 instruction; and

2 WHEREAS, the creation of a task force led by the higher
3 education department and the public education department, to
4 include representatives of the workforce solutions department,
5 the New Mexico school superintendents' association, the council
6 of university presidents, the New Mexico association of
7 community colleges, New Mexico independent community colleges
8 and other interested parties, would facilitate a discussion on
9 adequate and sustainable funding of the dual credit program;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher
12 education department and the public education department be
13 requested to convene a task force to study funding for the dual
14 credit program and to recommend a sustainable strategy to
15 promote the growth and expansion of the dual credit program;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
18 department and the higher education department be requested to
19 invite representatives of the workforce solutions department,
20 the New Mexico school superintendents' association, the council
21 of university presidents, the New Mexico association of
22 community colleges, New Mexico independent community colleges
23 and other interested parties to participate in the task force;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its

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1 findings and conclusions to the legislative finance committee
2 and the legislative education study committee by October 1,
3 2018; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the secretary
6 of public education, the secretary of workforce solutions, the
7 president of the New Mexico school superintendents'
8 association, the executive director of the council of
9 university presidents, the executive director of the New Mexico
10 association of community colleges, the executive director of
11 New Mexico independent community colleges, the chair of the
12 legislative finance committee and the chair of the legislative
13 education study committee.