

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Michael Padilla

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10 A JOINT RESOLUTION

11 PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 12 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO
12 BY ADDING A NEW SECTION TO CREATE THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
13 DEPARTMENT AND PROVIDE FOR ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND AMENDING
14 SECTION 3 TO ALLOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THAT DEPARTMENT TO
15 PROVIDE OR CONTRACT FOR VOLUNTARY NONRELIGIOUS, NONSECTARIAN
16 AND NONDENOMINATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

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18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

19 SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 12 of the
20 constitution of New Mexico by adding a new section to read:

21 "The "early childhood education department" is created to
22 provide for voluntary early childhood education, including
23 prenatal education and referral services for pregnant women and
24 for children from birth to age five or other appropriate age,
25 depending on the service provided. The department shall have

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1 such powers and duties as provided by law. The department
2 shall be a cabinet department headed by a secretary of early
3 childhood education, who shall be appointed by the governor
4 with the consent of the senate. The secretary shall have at
5 least ten years of experience studying, providing, supervising
6 and administering early childhood education programs."

7 SECTION 2. It is proposed to amend Article 12, Section 3
8 of the constitution of New Mexico to read:

9 "The schools, colleges, universities and other educational
10 institutions provided for by this constitution shall forever
11 remain under the exclusive control of the state, and no part of
12 the proceeds arising from the sale or disposal of any lands
13 granted to the state by congress, or any other funds
14 appropriated, levied or collected for educational purposes,
15 shall be used for the support of any sectarian, denominational
16 or private school, college or university; provided that funds
17 other than land grant funds that are appropriated, levied or
18 collected for educational purposes may be used by the public
19 schools and the early childhood education department to provide
20 or contract for the provision of nonreligious, nonsectarian and
21 nondenominational early childhood education services as
22 provided by law."

23 SECTION 3. The amendment proposed by this resolution
24 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or
25 rejection at the next general election or at any special

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1 election prior to that date that may be called for that
2 purpose.

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