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SENATE MEMORIAL 97

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Bill B. O'Neill

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO EXPLORE FUNDING
OPTIONS FOR THE CREATION OF DESIGN EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR AT-
RISK YOUTH.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's seventy percent high school
graduation rate ranks near the bottom when compared to other
states; and

WHEREAS, most of the assessments of students' proficiency
in schools are made through verbal testing; and

WHEREAS, at-risk youth may be challenged intellectually if
offered teaching modalities outside of the traditional
classroom; and

WHEREAS, a different approach is the design studio model,
which is a way of learning that mimics the training of
architects and industrial designers, using a workshop,

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1 laboratory or studio format; and

2 WHEREAS, a similar model for learning in the sciences
3 might be the laboratory where scientific experimentation
4 occurs; and

5 WHEREAS, design studio teaching involves a process that
6 values the new and unknown, not the "what was" or the "what
7 is", but the "what can be"; and

8 WHEREAS, students learn through creative problem solving
9 through the design of buildings, furniture, machines, toys,
10 bridges or landscape design; and

11 WHEREAS, all learning experiences reinforce core
12 curriculum standards; and

13 WHEREAS, the architecture and children curriculum is a
14 tool for teachers to encourage children's confidence to develop
15 and communicate ideas visually; and

16 WHEREAS, the architecture and children program uses the
17 study of the built environment as a window to study the world
18 and the ideas, laws and principles that govern it, the physics
19 of structures, design in nature and the similarities between
20 body systems and building systems; and

21 WHEREAS, students learn schematic drawing, architectural
22 conventions and to build models and plan spaces; and

23 WHEREAS, the architecture and children program has been
24 offered successfully as a summer program at Albuquerque academy
25 for many years; and

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