



The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 14, as amended

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Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE RAY BEGAYE

REPRESENTATIVE PATRICIA A. LUNDSTROM  
REPRESENTATIVE JAMES ROGER MADALENA  
REPRESENTATIVE NICK L. SALAZAR  
REPRESENTATIVE ELISEO LEE ALCON



1 A JOINT MEMORIAL  
2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE AND THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
3 TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE SOLVENCY OF THE LOTTERY  
4 TUITION FUND AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.  
5

6 WHEREAS, since legislative lottery scholarships were  
7 first awarded in 1996, more than seventy-five thousand three  
8 hundred students have attended New Mexico public colleges,  
9 universities and technical colleges with the help of the  
10 scholarships; and

11 WHEREAS, from 1996 through the spring semester of 2012,  
12 approximately four hundred thirty-three million six hundred  
13 thousand dollars (\$433,600,000) in lottery profits have been  
14 directed to college tuition; and

15 WHEREAS, legislative lottery scholarships pay for one  
16 hundred percent of a student's tuition for eight consecutive  
17 semesters of eligibility, beginning with the student's second  
18 semester of college enrollment; and

19 WHEREAS, of the legislative lottery scholarship students  
20 attending college, more than thirty-four thousand have earned  
21 their college degrees; and

22 WHEREAS, because of a ten-million-five-hundred-thousand-  
23 dollar (\$10,500,000) shortfall in lottery ticket sales in  
24 2011, the New Mexico lottery fell short of its scholarship  
25 revenue goal, even while delivering approximately forty-one

1 million three hundred thousand dollars (\$41,300,000) to the  
2 program; and

3 WHEREAS, lottery officials attribute the lack of growth  
4 in ticket sales to the current economic recession and  
5 prolonged recovery, to the loss of lottery ticket retailers  
6 that went out of business and to increasing food and gas  
7 prices; and

8 WHEREAS, the state's colleges and universities have  
9 continued to raise tuition rates nearly each year since the  
10 lottery began funding the legislative lottery scholarships in  
11 1996; and

12 WHEREAS, recent projections from the higher education  
13 department presented to the legislative education study  
14 committee show that the lottery tuition fund balance will fall  
15 sharply, with a tuition increase of only five percent, and  
16 with an increase of seven percent, the fund will be insolvent  
17 in fiscal year 2014; and

18 WHEREAS, the same projections also show that tuition  
19 increases for fiscal year 2012 average between six and eight-  
20 tenths percent and eleven and two-tenths percent; and

21 WHEREAS, recent data provided to the legislative  
22 education study committee show that legislative lottery  
23 scholarship recipients account for more than thirty-five  
24 percent of the total undergraduate students at the university  
25 of New Mexico; and

1           WHEREAS, the New Mexico lottery authority has reduced  
2 its expenditures over the past several years by reducing  
3 advertising costs and freezing lottery authority staff  
4 salaries, but it cannot increase revenues for scholarships  
5 with budget-cutting alone;

6           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department, in  
8 cooperation with the legislative education study committee and  
9 the legislative finance committee, convene a task force to  
10 study the solvency of the legislative lottery scholarship  
11 program; and

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force be composed  
13 of the following members:

14           A. three members from the house of representatives  
15 and three members from the senate appointed by the New Mexico  
16 legislative council;

17           B. three members appointed by the governor;

18           C. five members representing institutions of  
19 higher education, three to be appointed by the university  
20 council of presidents, one appointed by the New Mexico  
21 association of community colleges and one appointed by the New  
22 Mexico independent community colleges;

23           D. three students representing New Mexico  
24 institutions of higher education, one representing research  
25 universities, one representing comprehensive universities and

1 one representing community colleges appointed by the secretary  
2 of higher education from self-nominations and nominations from  
3 student government bodies; and

4 E. one member of the New Mexico lottery authority  
5 appointed by the New Mexico lottery authority board of  
6 directors; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff for the task force be  
8 provided by the higher education department, the legislative  
9 education study committee and the legislative finance  
10 committee; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force meet at least  
12 four times during the 2012 interim to research and consider  
13 the extent of the problem of lottery tuition fund insolvency  
14 and possible solutions to the problem of insolvency and make  
15 recommendations by December 1, 2012 to the governor and the  
16 first session of the fifty-first legislature; and

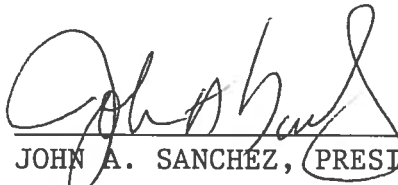
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
19 council, the secretary of higher education, the directors of  
20 the legislative education study committee and the legislative  
21 finance committee and the executive director of the council of  
22 university presidents.



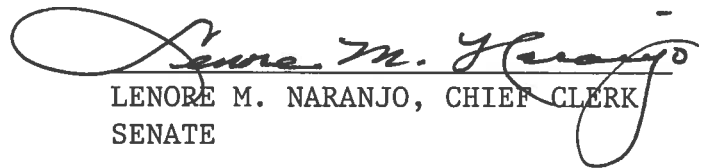
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