



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 67

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE SHERYL WILLIAMS STAPLETON AND
REPRESENTATIVE ELEANOR CHAVEZ AND REPRESENTATIVE RHONDA S. KING

REPRESENTATIVES MIGUEL P. GARCÍA, THOMAS A. GARCIA, ANDY NUÑEZ,
JAMES ROGER MADALENA, JIM R. TRUJILLO,
DEBBIE A. RODELLA, RAY BEGAYE,
LUCIANO "LUCKY" VARELA, SANDRA D. JEFF,
JONI MARIE GUTIERREZ, ERNEST H. CHAVEZ
AND ROBERTO "BOBBY" J. GONZALES



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC EDUCATION
3 PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP AND INCREASE THE
4 GRADUATION RATES OF HISPANIC, NATIVE AMERICAN AND AFRICAN
5 AMERICAN STUDENTS.

6
7 WHEREAS, New Mexicans honor their heritage, cultures and
8 languages as evidenced in the Hispanic Education Act, the
9 Indian Education Act and the Bilingual Multicultural Education
10 Act; and

11 WHEREAS, a free, public and sufficient education is
12 guaranteed for all children of New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, seventy percent of New Mexico's public school
14 student population consists of Hispanic, Native American and
15 African American children, who are underachieving
16 academically; and

17 WHEREAS, according to the 2012 edition of "Quality
18 Counts", the annual report card published by *Education Week*,
19 New Mexico is rated fiftieth on its "Chance-for-Success
20 Index", which grades the nation and states on thirteen
21 indicators, capturing the critical role that education plays
22 as a person moves from childhood through the K-12 system, and
23 into college and the work force; and

24 WHEREAS, the same report ranks New Mexico as forty-
25 seventh, with a grade of D minus, in the "K-12 Achievement

1 Index", which evaluates state educational performance on
2 eighteen individual indicators that measure current
3 achievement, improvements over time and poverty-based
4 disparities or gaps; and

5 WHEREAS, Hispanic, Native American and African American
6 students are dropping out of high school or post-secondary
7 education in numbers that severely threaten the social and
8 economic welfare of the state; and

9 WHEREAS, these students represent a significant portion
10 of New Mexico's future work force; and

11 WHEREAS, technological innovations continue to create
12 jobs for a skilled work force, and New Mexico's students must
13 be prepared for the jobs of the future; and

14 WHEREAS, a well-educated work force and citizenry is
15 widely viewed as the basis for economic stability and
16 competitiveness; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico's children of all colors are its
18 treasure; and

19 WHEREAS, the state must develop and support talented and
20 dedicated educators who are the key to delivering a high-
21 quality education to all students;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
24 legislative council be requested to convene a working group to
25 develop a comprehensive strategic education plan to eliminate

1 the achievement gap and increase the graduation rates of
2 Hispanic, Native American and African American students in New
3 Mexico; and

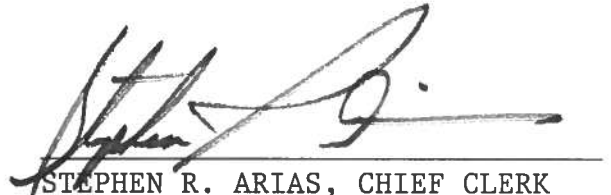
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
5 council be requested to include as members of the working
6 group representatives of the following: legislators; parents;
7 the public education department; the higher education
8 department, state public and private schools and universities;
9 organizations and advocacy groups that focus on educational
10 opportunities and progress for Hispanic, Native American and
11 African American students; organizations representing
12 educators; and business and community development
13 organizations; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
15 study committee and the legislative finance committee be
16 requested to assist in staffing the working group; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council, the public
19 education department, the higher education department, the
20 legislative education study committee and the legislative
21 finance committee.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ben Lujan", written over a horizontal line.

BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen R. Arias", written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES