

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE COSTS  
12 AND BENEFITS OF DIFFERENT HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS.  
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14 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a population of slightly over two  
15 million people, with fewer than three hundred twenty-five  
16 thousand people aged eighteen to thirty; and

17 WHEREAS, the state has seven constitutionally created  
18 colleges and universities, with a total of ten branches and  
19 several educational centers, and seven community colleges  
20 created by school districts; and

21 WHEREAS, only the three research institutions, the  
22 university of New Mexico, New Mexico institute of mining and  
23 technology and New Mexico state university, offer doctoral  
24 degrees; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a state that funds higher education

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1 through a funding formula appropriated from the general fund  
2 for instruction and general purposes, athletics, other expenses  
3 and research and public service projects; and

4 WHEREAS, in a time of decreasing resources, the state  
5 needs to investigate ways to provide higher education in the  
6 most efficient and effective ways possible; and

7 WHEREAS, there are several states that have one or two  
8 unitary systems with single governing boards and centralized  
9 administrations for public colleges and universities; some  
10 states have centralized administration only of community and  
11 technical colleges; and some states have similar governance  
12 structures to that of New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, a joint report from the national center for  
14 public policy and higher education and the national center for  
15 higher education management systems, *Good Policy, Good*  
16 *Practice, Improving Outcomes and Productivity in Higher*  
17 *Education: A Guide for Policymakers*, made the point that "[a]  
18 principal cause of inefficiency is a 'go-it-alone' campus  
19 mentality reinforced by state funding mechanisms that reward  
20 institutions for competition instead of collaboration."; and

21 WHEREAS, some research indicates mixed results and  
22 satisfaction with either unitary systems or decentralized  
23 administration of colleges and universities, and the idea is  
24 worthy of study in New Mexico to determine which system would  
25 work best for the state; and

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1           WHEREAS, New Mexicans want a higher education governance  
2 system that will provide better education for students, foster  
3 satisfaction of faculty and staff, lead to better graduation  
4 rates, cut administrative overhead and result in more of the  
5 higher education funding going to support and educate students  
6 at the undergraduate and graduate levels, rather than going to  
7 administration and overhead;

8           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be  
10 requested to study the costs and benefits of the current New  
11 Mexico higher education governance systems in comparison with  
12 other systems, including unitary systems and their variations  
13 and any other systems the department determines should be  
14 studied; and

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the boards of regents and  
16 administrations of state colleges and universities and the  
17 governing boards of public community colleges assist the higher  
18 education department as requested by the department; and

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education  
20 department report its findings to the second session of the  
21 fifty-third legislature; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the boards of  
24 regents and presidents and provosts of the state colleges and  
25 universities and the governing boards and presidents of the

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1 public community colleges.

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