

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

52nd Legislature, 1st Session

LAWS 2015

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 113

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE DEBORAH A. ARMSTRONG

REPRESENTATIVE JAMES ROGER MADALENA



A MEMORIAL

1
2 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK
3 FORCE TO EVALUATE THE QUALITY OF ONLINE STUDY COURSES, THE
4 STATE'S ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND CORRESPONDING REGULATIONS
5 FOR LICENSURE IN THE STATE AS A PSYCHOLOGIST.

6
7 WHEREAS, the demand for behavioral health care services
8 is increasing, and the state must continuously monitor the
9 adequacy of the behavioral health care work force and
10 resources; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a mostly rural state that has
12 some of the nation's highest rates of suicide and alcohol and
13 drug use; and

14 WHEREAS, the publicly funded behavioral health system is
15 a vital safety net for people with serious mental illnesses
16 such as depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia; and

17 WHEREAS, behavioral health care services are not always
18 sufficient to meet the demand in many regions of the state;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, in many rural areas, the range of behavioral
21 health care services is insufficient to meet the demand for
22 services; and

23 WHEREAS, where some mental health services do exist,
24 providers qualified to effectively treat complex diagnoses,
25 including counselors, social workers, psychologists and

1 psychiatrists with expertise in early childhood mental health,
2 are at times unavailable; and

3 WHEREAS, current behavioral health professional
4 requirements provide restrictions on an applicant's
5 eligibility to apply for licensure as a psychologist in the
6 state; and

7 WHEREAS, the state's psychologist licensing procedures
8 require applicants to have a doctoral degree from a program
9 accredited by the American psychological association, and this
10 organization does not currently allow accreditation of
11 programs that are substantially online; and

12 WHEREAS, the higher education department is statutorily
13 charged with the periodic study of higher education academic
14 program demands, institutional competencies and infrastructure
15 and state work force demands and therefore has the expertise
16 to carry out the requested study;

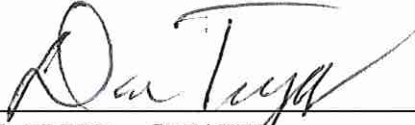
17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher
19 education department be requested to convene a task force that
20 includes representatives of the regulation and licensing
21 department, the behavioral health services division of the
22 human services department, the New Mexico association of
23 school psychologists, the New Mexico psychological
24 association, the New Mexico state board of psychologist
25 examiners and others to evaluate the quality of online study

1 courses, the state's licensing procedures, licensure
2 eligibility requirements and corresponding regulations for
3 psychologists; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
5 requested to hold meetings with students and representatives
6 of nontraditional doctoral programs that are excluded from
7 eligibility on the basis of their use of online methods of
8 education; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any recommended changes to
10 the state's licensing procedures, licensure eligibility
11 requirements or corresponding regulations be made to the
12 appropriate interim committee no later than December 1, 2015;
13 and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the
16 superintendent of regulation and licensing, the director of
17 the behavioral health services division of the human services
18 department, the president of the New Mexico association of
19 school psychologists, the executive director of the New Mexico
20 psychological association and the chair of the New Mexico
21 state board of psychologist examiners.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don Tripp", written above a horizontal line.

DON TRIPP, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denise Ramonas", written above a horizontal line.

DENISE RAMONAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES