

March 21, 2001

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 21

The Honorable Ben Lujan and
Members of the House of Representatives
Executive-Legislative Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Honorable Speaker and Members of the House:

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 972, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2001.

This bill contains over 400 performance measures and targets that would be applied to selected State agencies during fiscal year 2002. These measures are in addition to the 435 performance measures for the same agencies already included in the General Appropriation Act of 2001("GAA").

Performance measures and targets are an integral part of the state's performance-based budgeting initiative as codified in the Accountability in Government Act. The goal of the Act is to improve performance and accountability in State government. While I definitely support this goal, I cannot support the approach taken in this legislation:

- Performance measures must be established by the staff and management of the agencies and must be based on their strategic plans and budgets. Once developed, a consultation process should occur with the Legislature for a proper exchange of ideas. Some of the measures in House Bill 972 were designed by the Legislature without the agreement of the affected agencies or were developed without clear connection to the agencies' strategic plans and budgets. This is fundamentally at odds with the intent and letter of the Act.
- The sheer number of performance measures included in House Bill 972, when combined with the measures in the GAA, constitutes an unworkable burden of reporting and compliance for the state agencies. It is essential that we focus on a core set of meaningful measures. Experience will indicate whether that list should be expanded or revised.

- Performance measures should not be set in statute. Appropriate measures will be revised annually as agency missions and budgets evolve. Rather than a statute, these measures should be recorded in the form of a memorial that documents the agreement between the Executive and the Legislature.

Performance-based budgeting is an initiative that can truly reform state government to the benefit of all New Mexicans. I look forward to working with the Legislature to implement this reform.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Johnson
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: _____

By: _____
Secretary of State

Date _____

Time: _____

By: _____
Chief Clerk of the House
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Date _____