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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 63

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

John Paul Taylor

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE EXTENT OF
DRINKING AND DRUG USE WHILE DRIVING AMONG TEENAGERS.**

**WHEREAS, a 1998 on-site study demonstrated that
approximately one thousand two hundred empty beer bottles and
beer cans are dumped per road-mile per year in New Mexico; and**

**WHEREAS, it is estimated that about fifty percent of
these are tossed from vehicles driven by teenage drivers; and**

**WHEREAS, one thousand six hundred ninety-five teenagers
died in the United States in 1998 in alcohol-related traffic
accidents; and**

**WHEREAS, recent changes in both federal and state health
surveys have added questions about teenage drinking and drug
use while driving; and**

WHEREAS, this state-by-state national survey has provided

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1 accurate data leading to successful compliance efforts
2 reducing alcohol sales to minors; and

3 WHEREAS, this data on teenage drinking and drug use while
4 driving has also led to strengthened open container
5 legislation in some states; and

6 WHEREAS, a national survey on the impact of substance
7 abuse on state budgets shows that New Mexico spends only two
8 percent of an annual four hundred sixty-eight million dollars
9 (\$468,000,000) substance abuse budget on prevention and
10 treatment;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health lead an
13 interagency task force on teenage drinking and drug use while
14 driving to collect pertinent information, identify gaps in
15 public knowledge and recommend solutions to problems created
16 by such conduct; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include in its
18 recommendations estimates of the costs of providing such
19 solutions; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
21 representatives of the department of public safety, the state
22 highway and transportation department, the children, youth and
23 families department, the state department of public education,
24 local DWI agencies and organizations, concerned teenagers and
25 citizens; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be sent to the various state and local government agencies and organizations mentioned.