

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 22

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF NURSING TO STUDY THE LICENSING OF
MILITARY HOSPITAL CORPSMEN AS NURSES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico faces a severe health care provider shortage, particularly in nursing, as experienced providers retire, leave the state or change careers and young people make other career choices; and

WHEREAS, registered and licensed practical nurses are a critical component of the health care delivery system that provides patient care, and are even more important in providing care in physician shortage areas; and

WHEREAS, the state has an untapped resource in men and women who were trained and who practiced as military hospital corpsmen, and who, while in the military service, provided services similar to civilian licensed practical nurses and

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1 emergency medical technicians; and

2 WHEREAS, in addition, military hospital corpsmen have
3 education and training in responding to bioterrorism, which
4 would benefit health care facilities in countermeasure
5 preparation, and may have battlefield experience to bring to
6 bear for triage; and

7 WHEREAS, military hospital corpsmen may be immediately
8 qualified to be examined for licensure as licensed practical
9 nurses and perhaps could be qualified relatively quickly for
10 licensure as registered nurses; and

11 WHEREAS, the inclusion of military hospital corpsmen in
12 the civilian nursing profession would foster the board of
13 nursing's career ladder concept;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the board of nursing be requested to
16 conduct an in-depth comparison of curricula, training and job
17 descriptions of military hospital corpsmen against requirements
18 for levels of licensure for nurses in New Mexico and explore at
19 what appropriate level of licensure military hospital corpsmen
20 should be able to sit for examination to enter the nursing
21 profession in New Mexico; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of nursing be
23 requested to consult with military and civilian physicians and
24 hospital administrators, nursing home administrators, home
25 health agencies, schools of nursing and other appropriate

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parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of nursing report its findings and recommendations, including the comparison study, to the appropriate interim legislative committee by November 1, 2006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the board of nursing.