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HOUSE MEMORIAL 52

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

INTRODUCED BY

Al Park

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE CREATED TO STUDY THE NEED FOR
ENHANCED ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ETHICS LAWS IN NEW
MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexicans properly demand that elected
officials and public servants carry out their duties ethically
and with integrity; and

WHEREAS, this public demand is manifested in the
Governmental Conduct Act and other laws, including the
Financial Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Regulation Act and the
Campaign Reporting Act; and

WHEREAS, those laws do not uniformly apply to all elected
officials and public servants; and

WHEREAS, the secretary of state has primary responsibility
for enforcing those acts, but shares responsibility with the

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1 attorney general and district attorneys; and

2 WHEREAS, enforcement options include a mix of education
3 with the goal of seeking voluntary compliance and civil and
4 criminal penalties; and

5 WHEREAS, many states have created ethics commissions or
6 agencies with broad jurisdiction and authority to enforce
7 campaign finance, conflict of interest, lobbying and other
8 ethics laws; and

9 WHEREAS, the periodic review of the practices of and
10 experiences in other states helps inform the legislature and
11 other policymakers;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
14 legislative council, the secretary of state and the attorney
15 general be requested to cooperate in the creation and staffing
16 of a task force to examine the practices of and experiences in
17 other states that have created ethics commissions; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
19 council, the secretary of state and the attorney general be
20 requested to cooperate in appointing legislators, employees of
21 those executive branch offices and members of the public to the
22 task force; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
24 recommendations, if any, to the New Mexico legislative council,
25 the secretary of state and the attorney general prior to the

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1 first session of the forty-eighth legislature; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
4 council, the secretary of state and the attorney general.

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