

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gerald Ortiz y Pino

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
12 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TOBACCO USE AND EMPLOYER COSTS, INCLUDING
13 THE IMPACTS ON ORGANIZATIONS THAT EMPLOY TOBACCO USERS.
14

15 WHEREAS, tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of
16 death in the United States, responsible for about one of every
17 five deaths annually; and

18 WHEREAS, smoking cost the United States more than one
19 hundred ninety-three billion dollars (\$193,000,000,000) a year
20 between 2001 and 2004, including ninety-seven billion dollars
21 (\$97,000,000,000) in lost productivity annually and ninety-six
22 billion dollars (\$96,000,000,000) in direct health care
23 expenditures annually; and

24 WHEREAS, smoking accounted for more than three million
25 years of potential life lost in men and two million years of

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1 potential life lost in women between 2000 and 2004, reducing
2 life expectancy by approximately fourteen years; and

3 WHEREAS, smoking-attributable health care expenditures
4 totaled an estimated ninety-six billion dollars
5 (\$96,000,000,000) annually between 2001 and 2004, up more than
6 twenty billion dollars (\$20,000,000,000) from seventy-five
7 billion five hundred million dollars (\$75,500,000,000) in 1998;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, there are no incentives for New Mexico employers
10 to establish smoking cessation programs or develop tobacco-free
11 campuses; and

12 WHEREAS, on the contrary, New Mexico law may actually
13 impede efforts to reduce tobacco use, interfere with reasonable
14 employment practices and not allow for incentives for employers
15 to improve employee health and productivity; and

16 WHEREAS, the state would benefit from a review of those
17 laws;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the following organizations be
20 requested to form a task force to study the relationship
21 between tobacco use and employer costs, including the impacts
22 on organizations that employ tobacco users, and recommend
23 changes in laws to decrease workplace productivity losses and
24 employer and employee health care and insurance costs due to
25 tobacco use: the association of commerce and industry of New

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1 Mexico, New Mexico chambers of commerce, the New Mexico
2 hospital association, leading health care providers in New
3 Mexico, the insurance division of the public regulation
4 commission or its successor, the American lung association, the
5 New Mexico medical society, the American cancer society and the
6 greater Albuquerque medical association; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
8 council be requested to appoint up to four public members to
9 the task force; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
11 report its findings and recommendations to the legislative
12 health and human services committee by November 1, 2013; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to representatives of the aforementioned
15 organizations.