

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 11

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ALLOW INTERIM COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS BY REAL-TIME VIDEOCONFERENCE WHEN PRACTICABLE.

WHEREAS, the legislature's work is increasingly complex and cannot be contained within the confines of sixty- and thirty-day sessions each January through March; and

WHEREAS, to help close the potential knowledge gap presented by a part-time, citizen legislature, the legislature relies on interim committees to provide both education and thoughtful policy development on a range of topics; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult for many citizen legislators to take time off from work or rearrange their schedules to attend interim committee meetings as often as they would like; and

WHEREAS, the travel time to and from interim committee

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1 meetings increases the burden on citizen legislators; and

2 WHEREAS, advancements in technology have reached the point
3 that members could participate in meetings remotely; and

4 WHEREAS, several other state legislatures have developed
5 audioconferencing and videoconferencing capabilities for their
6 members;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
9 requested to allow interim committee members to participate in
10 meetings by real-time videoconference when meetings are held at
11 the state capitol or other locations at which acceptable
12 videoconferencing capability is readily available; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
14 council be requested to prohibit members who participate in a
15 meeting by videoconference from receiving per diem and mileage
16 for participating in that meeting; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico legislative
19 council.