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SENATE MEMORIAL 11

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

INTRODUCED BY

William H. Payne

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CONDUCT A STUDY EXAMINING THE COSTS, FEASIBILITY, POTENTIAL ISSUES AND BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING A VOTER IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM BASED ON BIOMETRIC MEASURES.

WHEREAS, modern advances in technology have allowed for the automatic identification of individuals based solely on physical characteristics such as thumbprints, retinal or iris scans, voice patterns, hand shape and face shape, as well as behavioral characteristics including handwriting styles; and

WHEREAS, this technology is commonly referred to as biometrics; and

WHEREAS, the use of biometrics has been implemented in several countries around the world as a method of identifying and verifying voters in elections; and

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1           WHEREAS, nations are employing the use of biometric voting  
2 systems to help support fair elections, reduce opportunities  
3 for fraud at polls and help to ensure the protection of  
4 democratic principles; and

5           WHEREAS, in recent years, the possibility of voter fraud  
6 has arisen as a concern during elections on both the local and  
7 national levels; and

8           WHEREAS, the implementation of voter identification  
9 systems based on biometrics reduces the potential for voter  
10 fraud while accelerating the voter identification process at  
11 the polls;

12           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
13 OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of state be requested to study  
14 the technological aspects of biometric measures as a viable  
15 method of a voter identification system; and

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of state examine  
17 the potential costs associated with establishing a data  
18 registry system to support a voter identification system along  
19 with the cost of the biometric equipment; and

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of state report  
21 the advantages and disadvantages of the implementation of  
22 biometric identification for a voter identification system; and

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the secretary of state.