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SENATE MEMORIAL 86

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

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF ALCOHOL ON THE ECONOMIC, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF NEW MEXICANS AND REPORT TO THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, in 2014, the department of health reported that over the past thirty years New Mexico has had among the highest alcohol-related death rate in the United States and has had the highest alcohol-related death rate since 1997; and

WHEREAS, since 1990, the department of health reported New Mexico's death rate due to alcohol-related injury has consistently been among the highest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, twenty-two percent of high school youth reported drinking before the age of thirteen, the fourth-highest rate in the nation; and

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1           WHEREAS, individuals who start drinking before the age of  
2 fifteen are four times more likely to develop alcohol  
3 dependence in adulthood; and

4           WHEREAS, high alcohol outlet density may contribute to a  
5 higher incidence of alcohol-related crime, including homicide,  
6 suicide, domestic violence, driving while impaired, sexual  
7 assault, property damage and vandalism, underage drinking and  
8 high-risk drinking by adults; and

9           WHEREAS, in 2013, the federal centers for disease control  
10 and prevention reports that in 2006 New Mexico had the third-  
11 highest per capita cost of alcohol abuse in the nation, with an  
12 estimated cost of one billion eight hundred million dollars  
13 (\$1,800,000,000); and

14           WHEREAS, an analysis of the costs of alcohol-related  
15 health and social issues would provide important data; and

16           WHEREAS, a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the  
17 total cost of alcohol-related public health, and societal  
18 consequences, compared to the economic fiscal benefits of the  
19 alcohol industry to the state's economy and state revenues,  
20 would assist in the formulation of policy proposals;

21           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
22 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health, in cooperation  
23 with the alcohol and gaming division of the regulation and  
24 licensing department; the economic development department; the  
25 department of transportation; the university of New Mexico

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1 bureau of business and economic research; and the legislative  
2 finance committee, be requested to:

3 A. conduct a comprehensive assessment of current  
4 environmental conditions regarding alcohol access and use and  
5 their impact on the health and well-being of New Mexicans;

6 B. identify evidence-based practices that address  
7 any concerning environmental conditions that have a documented  
8 negative impact on the health and well-being of New Mexicans  
9 while ensuring that the economic interests of the state are  
10 addressed;

11 C. study the impact of current environmental  
12 conditions on youth access to alcohol and problem drinking; and

13 D. seek the advice of national experts on evidence-  
14 based best practices when considering addressing state alcohol  
15 environmental conditions; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report be presented to the  
17 legislative health and human services committee and the  
18 legislative finance committee before November 15, 2015; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the governor; the chair of the legislative  
21 health and human services committee; the secretary of health;  
22 the director of the alcohol and gaming division of the  
23 regulation and licensing department; the secretary of economic  
24 development; the secretary of transportation; the director of  
25 the university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic

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1 research; and the chair of the legislative finance committee.

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