

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE
3 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
4 DEVELOPMENT OF A SECURE AND SIMPLE METHOD OF IDENTITY
5 AUTHENTICATION BASED ON BIOMETRICS.

6
7 WHEREAS, in 2014, an estimated seventeen million six
8 hundred thousand Americans had their personal information
9 compromised at least once, according to the United States
10 department of justice; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States department of justice states
12 that the total financial loss stemming from identity theft in
13 2014 was fifteen billion, four hundred million dollars
14 (\$15,400,000,000); and

15 WHEREAS, more than thirteen million Americans share one
16 of ten common surnames, tens of millions of consumers use
17 nicknames or initials, and fifty-seven million males have one
18 of ten first names; and

19 WHEREAS, these changes to identifiers pose complex
20 challenges for authentication by identity; and

21 WHEREAS, typically, a person's identity is more
22 susceptible to fraud when personal identification numbers are
23 used to authenticate identity; and

24 WHEREAS, biometric identity, such as fingerprints, is
25 unique to each person and is less susceptible to fraud than

1 other identification methods such as the authentication of
2 documents; and

3 WHEREAS, information and communication technology is
4 transforming the way business operates; and

5 WHEREAS, biometrics is becoming increasingly utilized by
6 businesses, with fingerprint identification as the most
7 feasible biometric, given the maturity of technology and
8 software and the convenience and growing use of fingerprint
9 scanners on devices such as cellular telephones and tablet
10 computers; and

11 WHEREAS, the adoption of a voluntary fingerprint
12 identity system for state government transactions could
13 reduce instances of fraud and loss of revenue due to fraud;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the feasibility
16 of the development of a secure and simple method of identity
17 authentication based on biometrics;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the economic
20 development department and the department of public safety be
21 requested to convene a biometrics study group made up of
22 interested parties to study the feasibility of the
23 development of a secure and simple method of identity
24 authentication based on biometrics; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the biometrics study group

1 be requested to report its findings and recommendations to
2 the appropriate legislative interim committee addressing
3 issues related to science, technology and telecommunications
4 by November 1, 2016; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the secretary of economic development and the
7 secretary of public safety.

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