

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE AGGRAVATION FELT BY VICTIMS OF CAR THEFT  
3 WHEN THEY HAVE TO PAY TOWING AND STORAGE FEES TO GAIN THE  
4 RETURN OF RECOVERED VEHICLES; REQUESTING A STUDY.

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6 WHEREAS, the news media have reported on a recent spate  
7 of winter car thefts and focused public attention on the  
8 issue; and

9 WHEREAS, when law enforcement recovers a stolen  
10 vehicle, the vehicle is towed to a storage facility; and

11 WHEREAS, owners of stolen vehicles sometimes feel  
12 doubly victimized when they are required to pay large towing  
13 and storage fees to have their property returned; and

14 WHEREAS, the towing and storage fees can present an  
15 insurmountable obstacle for people with moderate, low or  
16 fixed incomes; and

17 WHEREAS, some states, such as Virginia, provide a grace  
18 period for vehicle owners to pick up their recovered  
19 vehicles before they are assessed towing and storage fees;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that feelings of aggravation, or of  
22 being doubly victimized, as a result of the imposition of  
23 large fees to regain a stolen vehicle are understandable;  
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of public

1 safety be requested to develop a report that includes:

2 A. the number of stolen vehicles and stolen  
3 vehicles recovered per year in the state as a whole and in  
4 each county;

5 B. the average towing and daily storage fees in  
6 each county imposed on vehicle owners to recover stolen  
7 vehicles, including if those fees vary according to the time  
8 of day or calendar date;

9 C. the number of recovered stolen vehicles that  
10 are not reclaimed by their owners and have to be sold at  
11 auction;

12 D. a review of the stolen vehicle towing and  
13 storage fee policies used by other states, including states  
14 that provide vehicle owners with a multi-day grace period to  
15 reclaim recovered vehicles; and

16 E. an examination of the public benefits and  
17 costs of requiring vehicles to be towed to a storage area or  
18 to the owner's residence; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of public  
20 safety be requested to present this report to the  
21 appropriate interim legislative committee prior to November  
22 15, 2016; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the secretary of public safety. \_\_\_\_\_  
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