HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Angelica Rubio

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO REVIEW AND STUDY THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN NEW
MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the legislative power is vested by Article 4 of
the constitution of New Mexico in a senate and house of
representatives, designated as the legislature of the state of
New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the house of representatives is composed of
seventy members, and the senate is composed of forty-two
members; and

WHEREAS, the legislature is responsible for crafting and
shaping the laws impacting the New Mexicans it serves; and

WHEREAS, the legislature is a coequal branch of
government, essential to an effective system of checks and

1   balances with the executive and judicial branches of

2   government; and

3   WHEREAS, while the legislature is constantly seeking ways

4   to improve policies that affect all aspects of state

5   government, it must also continue to seek possible improvements

6   to help it conduct its work and perform its duties more

7   effectively; and

8   WHEREAS, in 2002, the New Mexico legislative council

9   conducted a study of the roles, responsibilities, functions,

10   structure and organization of the legislative committee

11   process; and

12   WHEREAS, in 2007, the legislative structure and process

13   study task force was formed to develop recommendations to more

14   effectively perform the policymaking and oversight duties of

15   the legislature; and

16   WHEREAS, it is important to build upon the work resulting

17   from these previous studies and to consider new proposals to

18   innovate the legislative process;

19   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

20   STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be

21   requested to convene a task force to review and study the

22   legislative process in New Mexico; and

23   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative

24   council be requested to appoint members from the house of

25   representatives and the senate and public members to the task

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1   force; and

2   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to

3   include in its study consideration of the length of legislative

4   sessions, compensation of legislative members, investigation of

5   ethics complaints, legislative efficiency and other topics

6   affecting the work of the legislature; and

7   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to

8   issue a report of its findings and recommendations by December

9   31, 2017; and

10   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

11   transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative

12   council and the director of the legislative council service.

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