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SENATE MEMORIAL 27

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Phil Griego

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEMS, PENALTIES AND POSSIBLE
PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH MINORS WHO ARE FOUND POSSESSING
ALCOHOL AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE
INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

WHEREAS, minors are vulnerable to alcohol and substance
abuse; and

WHEREAS, minors are vulnerable to peer pressure and
likely to associate substance abuse with "fitting in" and
being accepted by peers and getting attention from their
families; and

WHEREAS, minors are likely to abuse drugs and alcohol to
escape personal problems because they are young, physically
vulnerable to becoming addicted and have less knowledge about

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1 the dangers of substance abuse; and

2 WHEREAS, minors are targeted by the media's glamorization
3 of teen consumption and usage of alcohol and drugs; and

4 WHEREAS, forty percent of traffic crash deaths involving
5 minors in 1997 also involved alcohol; and

6 WHEREAS, almost eight percent of driving while
7 intoxicated convictions in New Mexico in 1997 involved drivers
8 who were minors; and

9 WHEREAS, a minor is killed in a traffic crash in New
10 Mexico every seven days; and

11 WHEREAS, these alarming numbers result in minors being an
12 at-risk population due to alcohol and substance abuse;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
14 OF NEW MEXICO that the courts, corrections and criminal
15 justice committee hear testimony from the state highway and
16 transportation department, the teen mobilization program
17 associated with the traffic safety bureau of the state highway
18 and transportation department, juvenile probation officers,
19 law enforcement, the administrative office of the courts and
20 any other appropriate person or entity regarding matters of
21 existing enforcement penalties, prevention programs and
22 general concerns relating to minors convicted of possession of
23 alcohol or controlled substances and minors convicted of
24 driving while under the influence of alcohol or controlled
25 substances; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature make
2 recommendations prior to December 15, 1999 regarding penalties
3 and prevention programs relating to minors convicted of
4 possession of alcohol or controlled substances and minors
5 convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol or
6 controlled substances; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the state highway and transportation
9 department, the DWI grant council, the university of New
10 Mexico institute of public law, the Torrance county DWI
11 prevention coordinator to be distributed to the students who
12 provided assistance with this memorial at Moriarty,
13 Mountainair and Estancia public schools, the teen mobilization
14 program associated with the traffic safety bureau of the state
15 highway and transportation department and the members of the
16 courts, corrections and criminal justice committee.