

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 34

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Gloria C. Vaughn

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

PROPOSING A WORK GROUP TO EVALUATE EXISTING STATUTORY PROVISIONS AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE HANDLING OF AN EMERGENCY AND TO PROVIDE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATUTORY REVISIONS AND STATE PREPAREDNESS.

WHEREAS, the events of September 11 have demonstrated the need for increased levels of state preparedness and protection; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has recently had to respond to emergencies, such as those caused by the hantavirus pulmonary syndrome outbreak and the Cerro Grande forest fire; and

WHEREAS, the centers for disease control and prevention funded the drafting of the Model State Emergency Health Powers Act to guide states in reviewing their laws relating to

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 emergency preparedness; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico has various statutory and
3 constitutional provisions designed to provide appropriate
4 responses to emergency situations; and

5 WHEREAS, emergencies can take many and varied forms,
6 including those arising from terrorism; radiological,
7 biological and chemical mishaps; and natural disasters, and
8 those emergencies require state preparedness measures designed
9 to provide immediate and appropriate response; and

10 WHEREAS, differences in types of emergencies and their
11 corresponding responses require constant reassessment of
12 chain-of-command procedures, communications systems,
13 technology, transportation systems, facilities and other
14 instruments used in dealing with emergencies and disasters;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health, the
17 department of public safety and the attorney general's office
18 be requested to convene a work group to evaluate the state's
19 existing statutory provisions and regulatory requirements for
20 the handling of emergencies; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group obtain input
22 from all other state agencies to ensure a coordinated and
23 comprehensive approach to the study; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group consider
25 necessary coordination between state and federal offices,

**underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete**

1 colleges and universities, national laboratories, military
2 installations, school systems, transportation systems, private
3 industry and other entities in the handling of an emergency;
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group present its
6 findings and recommendations regarding statutory provisions,
7 regulatory requirements and operational plans to the New
8 Mexico legislative council or an appropriate interim committee
9 by June 30, 2002 to ensure appropriate discussion of budget
10 and policy considerations and necessary follow-up before the
11 first session of the forty-sixth legislature; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the department of health, the department of
14 public safety and the attorney general's office.