

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 62

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE RATE OF INFECTIONS ACQUIRED DURING
PATIENT HOSPITALIZATION.

WHEREAS, patient infections acquired in hospitals and
other health care settings are a growing concern among
hospitals, patients, advocates, the insurance industry and
public health officials; and

WHEREAS, patient infections acquired during hospital stays
are termed "nosocomial infections"; and

WHEREAS, many patient infections are not discovered until
after a patient's discharge from the hospital; and

WHEREAS, one study reported that approximately one-third
of nosocomial infections are preventable; and

WHEREAS, the problem has grown to the point that a
national conference on the subject is being held in Atlanta,

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1 including participants from the federal centers for disease
2 control and prevention, a national professional association on
3 infection control and epidemiology and an American hospital
4 association; and

5 WHEREAS, hospitals are not required to report all
6 nosocomial infections in New Mexico, though they are required
7 to report certain classes of infections; and

8 WHEREAS, not all health care organizations and
9 institutions recognize, gather and report consistent data on
10 nosocomial infections; and

11 WHEREAS, the federal centers for disease control and
12 prevention publishes a national standard for identification of
13 hospital-acquired infections; and

14 WHEREAS, there is currently no uniformity in recording or
15 reporting certain infections by New Mexico hospitals; and

16 WHEREAS, one state reported a sharp decline in nosocomial
17 infections after public reporting requirements were mandated;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy
20 commission, with the cooperation of the department of health,
21 be requested to examine the best practices and current studies
22 on nosocomial infections to determine if a uniform public
23 reporting system is in the best public interest; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include
25 participation by a statewide hospital and health systems

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1 association, an association of primary health care clinics, a
2 statewide medical association, a statewide association of
3 professionals in infection control and epidemiology and a state
4 society of physician-surgeons; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico health policy
6 commission obtain and report the findings of the national
7 meeting on nosocomial infections; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a
9 recommendation on the advisability of all New Mexico hospitals
10 using the federal centers for disease control and prevention
11 nosocomial reporting standards; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico health policy
13 commission report its findings and recommendations to the
14 legislative health and human services committee at the
15 committee's October 2005 meeting; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the New Mexico health policy commission, the
18 legislative health and human services committee and the
19 secretary of health.