

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 42

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF INCREASING
THE USE OF SIMULATOR DRIVER TRAINING FOR ON-ROAD DRIVER
TRAINING.

WHEREAS, a motor vehicle accident occurs about every ten
minutes in New Mexico, resulting in an injury every twenty
minutes and a death every seventeen hours in 2004; and

WHEREAS, young drivers between the ages of fifteen years
and nineteen years have the highest crash rate; and

WHEREAS, better driver education, including the increased
use of driving simulators, may help reduce the crash rate for
young drivers; and

WHEREAS, the use of driving simulators has the advantage
of safely exposing students to the hazards of day-to-day

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1 driving situations and can help improve the motor skills
2 reaction time and decision-making process of students; and

3 WHEREAS, regulations adopted by the department of
4 transportation require for-profit driver education schools to
5 provide at least seven hours of behind-the-wheel instruction to
6 each student and restrict the use of driving simulators by
7 counting two hours of simulator training as just one hour of
8 on-the-road training;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the traffic safety bureau of the
11 department of transportation be requested to study the
12 potential benefits of increasing the use of driving simulators
13 as a substitute for on-the-road training and that the
14 department be requested to consider allowing time on simulator
15 training to be counted equally to on-the-road training; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of transportation and the chief of
18 the traffic safety bureau.

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