

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 55

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE THE FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTANTS FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT IN LIGHT OF THE EXTENSIVE GROWTH IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the state recognizes the need for safety awareness in the construction industry; and

WHEREAS, the budget of the occupational health and safety bureau of the department of environment has not been adjusted to collate with construction job growth in New Mexico since 1978; and

WHEREAS, the processes for funding the occupational health and safety bureau have not taken into account the relationship between industry growth and funding for the bureau; and

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1           WHEREAS, the construction industry is one of the fastest  
2 growing industries in New Mexico, making it a major economic  
3 driver in New Mexico; and

4           WHEREAS, the consulting services provided to the  
5 construction industry by the occupational health and safety  
6 bureau are essential to sustaining growth, equitable practices  
7 in the industry and the quality and safety of construction in  
8 New Mexico; and

9           WHEREAS, funding for the bureau must be adequate to  
10 provide necessary consulting services, which are a vital part  
11 of safety and health achievement recognition programs,  
12 volunteer protection plans, consulting, training and education  
13 programs, partnerships and alliances, and to ensure that the  
14 New Mexico construction industry continues its outstanding  
15 safety record throughout New Mexico;

16           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to form a  
18 task force to study the relationship between funding and  
19 industry growth and make recommendations to the legislative  
20 finance committee and the department of finance and  
21 administration for means and methods of funding the  
22 occupational health and safety bureau that correspond to growth  
23 and other relevant changes in the construction industry; and

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the  
25 chief of the occupational health and safety bureau; the

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1 secretary of finance and administration or the secretary's  
2 designee; representatives of the associated general contractors  
3 building branch partnership, associated builders and  
4 contractors of New Mexico partnership, and national utility  
5 contractors association of New Mexico alliance; and other  
6 members deemed necessary by the governor; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider how  
8 funding for the bureau may be structured with flexibility so  
9 the bureau can effectively respond to growth and declines in  
10 the construction industry; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its  
12 findings and recommendations to the governor, the department of  
13 environment, the state budget division of the department of  
14 finance and administration and the legislative finance  
15 committee by August 1, 2006; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of environment.