

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION TO CREATE
A TASK FORCE TO STUDY WHETHER TO ADD WORKERS' COMPENSATION
COVERAGE FOR FARM AND RANCH LABORERS.

WHEREAS, the workers' compensation administration is
charged with administering the workers' compensation laws of
this state; and

WHEREAS, current workers' compensation law applies to
employers of three or more workers, excluding the owner, in
most cases; and

WHEREAS, current workers' compensation law allows an
exemption for farm and ranch laborers; and

WHEREAS, covering farm and ranch laborers could have a
significant fiscal impact for businesses and for the state;
and

WHEREAS, eligibility for workers' compensation insurance
could have a significant impact on the farm and ranch laborers
who are not currently covered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the workers'
compensation administration be requested to create a task
force to study the fiscal and policy implications of adding
farm and ranch laborers to workers' compensation coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the workers' compensation

administration create a task force of equal numbers of persons who are actively engaged as farm and ranch business owners and their advocates, persons who are farm and ranch laborers and their advocates and persons who are with the workers' compensation administration and persons actively engaged in the insurance industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the workers' compensation administration report to the appropriate interim committee the conclusions and recommendations of the task force by November 2007 and report to the appropriate interim legislative committee the conclusions of the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the advisory council on workers' compensation and occupational disease disablement compensation, the workers' compensation administration, the director of the New Mexico department of agriculture, the secretary of labor and the governor.