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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 67

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas A. Anderson

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY
OF HEALTHCARE- ACQUIRED INFECTION SURVEILLANCE IN NEW MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, healthcare-acquired infections affect an
estimated two million Americans each year; and**

**WHEREAS, an estimated ninety thousand Americans die each
year from healthcare-acquired infections; and**

**WHEREAS, healthcare-acquired infections cost billions of
dollars per year nationwide and result in increased expenses
to patients for extended hospital stays and additional
medication; and**

**WHEREAS, many of the deaths and illnesses that result
from healthcare-acquired infections are preventable; and**

**WHEREAS, preventive measures such as hand washing have
been shown to reduce healthcare-acquired infections; and**

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1 WHEREAS, the study and public disclosure of healthcare-
2 acquired infection rates provide a strong incentive for
3 hospitals to improve preventive measures and thereby lower
4 healthcare-acquired infection rates; and

5 WHEREAS, reports from private systems suggest that
6 participation in an organized, ongoing system for monitoring
7 healthcare-acquired infections can reduce the rates of
8 healthcare-acquired infections; and

9 WHEREAS, several states require public disclosure of
10 healthcare-acquired infection rates; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico has an opportunity to be at the
12 forefront of reform with respect to this issue;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
15 to establish a task force to conduct a comprehensive review of
16 the healthcare-acquired infection studies in the United
17 States; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include a
19 representative from the New Mexico association for
20 professionals in infection control and epidemiology,
21 incorporated; a representative of the New Mexico hospitals and
22 health systems association; a representative of the New Mexico
23 medical review association; and a representative of the
24 university of New Mexico health sciences center; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health

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1 present a written report regarding the feasibility of
2 healthcare-acquired infection surveillance in New Mexico to
3 the appropriate interim legislative committee no later than
4 November 1, 2007; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that duplicate copies of the
6 department of health's report be filed with the legislative
7 council service library upon presentation of the report to the
8 appropriate interim legislative committee; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the secretary of health and the New Mexico
11 legislative council.

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