

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 11

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO BEGIN TO
12 REFORM THE INTERIM COMMITTEE PROCESS IN 2011.

13
14 WHEREAS, the legislature's interim committees are a
15 valuable component in the legislature's policymaking process,
16 providing members with opportunities to study increasingly
17 complex issues in greater depth and providing New Mexicans with
18 direct access to policymakers; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico's relatively short regular sessions
20 place increased importance and responsibility on the
21 legislature's interim committees; and

22 WHEREAS, the increasing number and growing size of interim
23 committees hinders their effectiveness as scheduling conflicts
24 and overlapping jurisdictions become more common; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico state government is in the midst of

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1 its worst budget crisis in decades, forcing deep cuts across
2 all branches of government; and

3 WHEREAS, the government restructuring task force was
4 created by the legislature to examine the entire structure of
5 state government and recommend changes to make state operations
6 more effective and efficient; and

7 WHEREAS, the task force noted the potential for cost
8 savings and efficiencies in the legislative branch, including
9 fewer interim committees, improved linkage to standing
10 committees and shared use of permanent staffs; and

11 WHEREAS, while the task force did not have time to fully
12 study proposed legislative reforms and recommended that its
13 successor take up that job and also consider the work of the
14 legislative structure and process study task force, the current
15 budget demands and legislative calendar dictate that some
16 changes can and should be made now; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2010, there were more than two dozen interim
18 committees, task forces, work groups and subcommittees to which
19 legislators and legislative staff devoted their time, energy
20 and attention in varying degrees; and

21 WHEREAS, while some interim committees are created by
22 statute and cannot be eliminated or consolidated without
23 changes to the law, the legislature desires to reduce the
24 number of committees by temporarily not appointing members to
25 some of those statutorily created committees in order to

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1 measure the impact of such a reduction before seeking changes
2 to statutes;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the appointment of members
5 to only the following committees for the 2011 interim:

- 6 A. the New Mexico legislative council;
- 7 B. the legislative education study committee;
- 8 C. the legislative finance committee;
- 9 D. the capitol buildings planning commission;
- 10 E. a business and economic development committee;
- 11 F. an environment and natural resources committee;
- 12 G. a government restructuring task force;
- 13 H. an Indian affairs committee;
- 14 I. the interim legislative ethics committee;
- 15 J. a judiciary committee;
- 16 K. the legislative committee on compacts;
- 17 L. a legislative health committee;
- 18 M. a legislative human services committee;
- 19 N. the Mortgage Finance Authority Act oversight
20 committee;
- 21 O. the New Mexico finance authority oversight
22 committee;
- 23 P. the public school capital outlay oversight task
24 force;
- 25 Q. a redistricting committee;

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1 R. the revenue stabilization and tax policy
2 committee; and

3 S. a science and technology committee; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the co-chairs of the New
5 Mexico legislative council, the chairs and vice chairs of the
6 legislative education study committee and legislative finance
7 committee, the majority floor leaders, the minority floor
8 leaders and two senior members each of the minority party from
9 the legislative education study committee and the legislative
10 finance committee be requested to develop a plan to divide the
11 various topics to be examined during the interim among these
12 committees; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the directors of the
14 legislative council service, legislative education study
15 committee and legislative finance committee be requested to
16 develop and present to the New Mexico legislative council a
17 proposal to jointly staff the interim committees in an
18 effective and efficient manner; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature state its
20 commitment to seeking further efficiencies and greater
21 effectiveness in its interim committee structure.