

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AN UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE
CURRENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS,
SHARED WORK PLANS AND INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, AMONG
OTHERS.

WHEREAS, the idea for an unemployment compensation
program began in Wisconsin in 1932, during the depths of the
great depression, and the federal government followed suit
with the Social Security Act of 1935, which encouraged the
states to adopt unemployment insurance plans; and

WHEREAS, currently, all states participate in the
federal-state program, which is financed through federal and
state employer payroll taxes; and

WHEREAS, with the recent economic downturn, states are
struggling to maintain their unemployment insurance funds, and
many have had to request loans from the federal government,
which must be repaid with interest, a difficult burden in the
face of declining unemployment insurance revenue and
increasing need; and

WHEREAS, given the expectation of a slow recovery from
what is being called "the great recession", it is vital that
New Mexico policymakers find ways to improve the unemployment
compensation program in a way that benefits both employers and

employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to appoint an ad hoc unemployment compensation task force to consider options for improving the unemployment compensation program and the viability of the unemployment compensation fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership include representatives of business and labor as well as other interested persons and that the two major political parties be equally represented in the membership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study innovations in place in other states as well as ideas set forth by state and federal policymakers, labor economists and other researchers, including:

- A. individual savings accounts for workers;
- B. shared work options;
- C. job search waivers for entrepreneurial activity; and
- D. opportunities and requirements for recipients to engage in community service work while receiving unemployment compensation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report to the governor and appropriate legislative interim committees by November 15, 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor and the legislative council service.