

HOUSE HEALTH, GOVERNMENT AND INDIAN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

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**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE  
ROLE OF COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
INFRASTRUCTURE OF NEW MEXICO; REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT TO  
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of a small number of states  
that does not have county and local health departments; and

WHEREAS, county and tribal health councils were  
established to plan and coordinate community-level responses to  
pressing health issues; and

WHEREAS, the councils are composed of health care  
providers, school and public health officials, health  
advocates, health care consumers and concerned members of the  
community; and

WHEREAS, the councils work closely with city, county,

1 tribal and state governmental agencies to improve the health of  
2 New Mexicans; and

3 WHEREAS, the councils play a major role in providing seven  
4 out of the ten major essential public health services; and

5 WHEREAS, the councils play a vital role as hubs for county  
6 and tribal public health systems, reducing duplication and  
7 filling gaps in local health services; and

8 WHEREAS, the councils are uniquely positioned to assess  
9 and identify local health needs; and

10 WHEREAS, the councils are also uniquely qualified to  
11 develop and implement long-range community health plans; and

12 WHEREAS, the councils assist local governments to attract  
13 federal, state and private funding to support community health  
14 programs and services; and

15 WHEREAS, the councils have been successful in leveraging  
16 funding over the past three years, raising three dollars  
17 seventy cents (\$3.70) for every one dollar (\$1.00) provided by  
18 the state; and

19 WHEREAS, the councils already serve as a conduit between  
20 local communities and cabinet departments, particularly the  
21 department of health;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested  
24 to conduct a study on the role of county and tribal health  
25 councils in the public health infrastructure of New Mexico; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department report on the  
2 results of its study to the legislative health and human  
3 services committee no later than August 1, 2013; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
5 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the chair  
6 of the legislative health and human services committee and the  
7 New Mexico alliance of health councils.

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