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SENATE MEMORIAL 22

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

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TOBACCO USE AND EMPLOYER COSTS, INCLUDING
THE IMPACTS ON ORGANIZATIONS THAT EMPLOY TOBACCO USERS.

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of
death in the United States, responsible for about one of every
five deaths annually; and

WHEREAS, smoking cost the United States more than one
hundred ninety-three billion dollars (\$193,000,000,000) a year
between 2001 and 2004, including ninety-seven billion dollars
(\$97,000,000,000) in lost productivity annually and ninety-six
billion dollars (\$96,000,000,000) in direct health care
expenditures annually; and

WHEREAS, smoking accounted for more than three million
years of potential life lost in men and two million years of

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1 potential life lost in women between 2000 and 2004, reducing
2 life expectancy by approximately fourteen years; and

3 WHEREAS, smoking-attributable health care expenditures
4 totaled an estimated ninety-six billion dollars
5 (\$96,000,000,000) annually between 2001 and 2004, up more than
6 twenty billion dollars (\$20,000,000,000) from seventy-five
7 billion five hundred million dollars (\$75,500,000,000) in 1998;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, there are no incentives for New Mexico employers
10 to establish smoking cessation programs or develop tobacco-free
11 campuses; and

12 WHEREAS, on the contrary, New Mexico law may actually
13 impede efforts to reduce tobacco use, interfere with reasonable
14 employment practices and not allow for incentives for employers
15 to improve employee health and productivity; and

16 WHEREAS, the state would benefit from a review of those
17 laws;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
19 OF NEW MEXICO that the following organizations be requested to
20 form a task force to study the relationship between tobacco use
21 and employer costs, including the impacts on organizations that
22 employ tobacco users, and recommend changes in laws to decrease
23 workplace productivity losses and employer and employee health
24 care and insurance costs due to tobacco use: the association
25 of commerce and industry of New Mexico, New Mexico chambers of

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1 commerce, the New Mexico hospital association, leading health
2 care providers in New Mexico, the insurance division of the
3 public regulation commission or its successor, the American
4 lung association, the New Mexico medical society, the American
5 cancer society and the greater Albuquerque medical association;
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
8 council be requested to appoint up to four public members to
9 the task force; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
11 report its findings and recommendations to the legislative
12 health and human services committee by November 1, 2013; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to representatives of the aforementioned
15 organizations.

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