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SENATE MEMORIAL 57

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

INTRODUCED BY

William Soules

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE TO SET THE
THERMOSTAT IN THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDINGS DURING THE WINTER
MONTHS TO NO HIGHER THAN SIXTY-EIGHT DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.

WHEREAS, the state capitol buildings, consisting of the
building commonly referred to as the "roundhouse", as well as
the north annex to the roundhouse, need to be heated to keep
legislators, staff and visitors comfortable; and

WHEREAS, regular legislative sessions in New Mexico occur
during the winter months; and

WHEREAS, setting the thermostats to sixty-eight degrees
Fahrenheit would be sufficient to keep most legislators, staff
and visitors comfortable; and

WHEREAS, setting the thermostats to more than sixty-eight
degrees Fahrenheit routinely results in some legislators, staff

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1 and visitors not being comfortable because they become
2 overheated; and

3 WHEREAS, all legislators are required to wear business
4 attire, and male legislators are required to wear a suit jacket
5 and tie during floor sessions, which last multiple hours, and
6 many legislators, as well as staff and visitors to the
7 legislative floor, become overheated because of the combination
8 of experiencing temperatures over sixty-eight degrees
9 Fahrenheit while being warmly dressed in the required business
10 attire; and

11 WHEREAS, it is possible for people who feel cool to add
12 layers, but it is not possible for people who feel hot to
13 remove layers, while on the legislative floor; and

14 WHEREAS, heating buildings requires the burning of fossil
15 fuels, which releases carbon dioxide, produces greenhouse gases
16 and contributes to global warming; and

17 WHEREAS, one way to limit the release of carbon dioxide,
18 production of greenhouse gases and contribution to global
19 warming is to set the thermostat to no higher than sixty-eight
20 degrees thermostat during the winter months; and

21 WHEREAS, the cost of fossil fuels for heating the
22 legislative buildings negatively impacts the general fund; and

23 WHEREAS, setting the thermostat to no higher than sixty-
24 eight degrees also will save money in heating costs;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

.193050.1

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1 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative council service be requested
2 to set the thermostats in the capitol buildings at no higher
3 than sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the director of the legislative council service.

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