A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CONDUCT A STUDY

EXAMINING THE COSTS, FEASIBILITY, POTENTIAL ISSUES AND

BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING A VOTER IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM BASED

ON BIOMETRIC MEASURES.

     WHEREAS, modern advances in technology have allowed for

the automatic identification of individuals based solely on

physical characteristics such as thumbprints, retinal or

iris scans, voice patterns, hand shape and face shape, as

well as behavioral characteristics including handwriting

styles; and

     WHEREAS, this technology is commonly referred to as

biometrics; and

     WHEREAS, the use of biometrics has been implemented in

several countries around the world as a method of

identifying and verifying voters in elections; and

     WHEREAS, nations are employing the use of biometric

voting systems to help support fair elections and help to

ensure the protection of democratic principles; and

     WHEREAS, the implementation of voter identification

systems based on biometrics reduces the potential for voter

fraud while accelerating the voter identification process at

the polls;

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of state be requested

to study the technological aspects of biometric measures as

a viable method of a voter identification system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of state

examine the potential costs associated with establishing a

data registry system to support a voter identification

system along with the cost of the biometric equipment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of state

report the advantages and disadvantages of the

implementation of biometric identification for a voter

identification system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

transmitted to the secretary of state.