

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 19

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY LOAD RATINGS OF BRIDGES IN MCKINLEY COUNTY AND COSTS TO PROVIDE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BRIDGES THAT ARE NOT LOAD RATED FOR STANDARD-SIZED SCHOOL BUSES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's extensive system of roads, highways and bridges provides the state's residents, visitors and businesses with a high level of mobility; and

WHEREAS, this transportation system forms the backbone that supports the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, as New Mexico looks to achieve further economic growth, the state will need to maintain and modernize its roads, highways and bridges by improving the physical condition of the transportation network; and

WHEREAS, seven percent of New Mexico's bridges were rated

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1 structurally deficient in 2014, according to a national
2 transportation research group study; and

3 WHEREAS, a bridge is structurally deficient if there is
4 significant deterioration of the bridge deck, supports or other
5 major components; and

6 WHEREAS, structurally deficient bridges are often posted
7 for lower weight or closed to traffic, restricting or
8 redirecting larger vehicles, including commercial trucks,
9 school buses and emergency vehicles; and

10 WHEREAS, there are concerns that structural deficiencies
11 of bridges in McKinley county create hazards and impact the
12 safety of drivers and passengers; and

13 WHEREAS, a study of load ratings of McKinley county
14 bridges and of costs to provide improvements to deficient
15 bridges would assist in determining and prioritizing needed
16 bridge repairs;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation be
19 requested to convene a task force to study load ratings of
20 bridges in McKinley county and the costs for improvements to
21 bridges that are not load rated for standard-sized school buses
22 and emergency vehicles; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include the
24 secretary of transportation, the district engineer of the
25 department of transportation and representatives from the

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1 McKinley county board of commissioners and affected tribal
2 governments; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
4 findings and recommendations for improvements to bridges in
5 McKinley county that are not load rated for standard-sized
6 school buses and emergency vehicles to the appropriate interim
7 committee that studies transportation infrastructure issues and
8 the legislative finance committee by November 1, 2015; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the secretary of transportation, the district
11 engineer of the department of transportation, the McKinley
12 county board of commissioners, representatives of affected
13 tribal governments, the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
14 council and the chair of the legislative finance committee.