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HOUSE MEMORIAL 71

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

INTRODUCED BY

Javier Martínez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF ALCOHOL ON THE ECONOMIC, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF NEW MEXICANS AND REPORT TO THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, in 2014, the department of health reported that over the past thirty years New Mexico has had among the highest alcohol-related death rate in the United States and has had the highest alcohol-related death rate since 1997; and

WHEREAS, since 1990, the department of health reported New Mexico's death rate due to alcohol-related injury has consistently been among the highest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, twenty-two percent of high school youth reported drinking before the age of thirteen, the fourth-highest rate in the nation; and

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1 WHEREAS, individuals who start drinking before the age of
2 fifteen are four times more likely to develop alcohol
3 dependence in adulthood; and

4 WHEREAS, high alcohol outlet density may contribute to a
5 higher incidence of alcohol-related crime, including homicide,
6 suicide, domestic violence, driving while impaired, sexual
7 assault, property damage and vandalism, underage drinking and
8 high-risk drinking by adults; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2013, the federal centers for disease control
10 and prevention reports that in 2006 New Mexico had the third-
11 highest per capita cost of alcohol abuse in the nation, with an
12 estimated cost of one billion eight hundred million dollars
13 (\$1,800,000,000); and

14 WHEREAS, an analysis of the costs of alcohol-related
15 health and social issues would provide important data; and

16 WHEREAS, a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the
17 total cost of alcohol-related public health, and societal
18 consequences, compared to the economic fiscal benefits of the
19 alcohol industry to the state's economy and state revenues,
20 would assist in the formulation of policy proposals;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
23 of health, in cooperation with the alcohol and gaming division
24 of the regulation and licensing department; the economic
25 development department; the department of transportation; the

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1 university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic
2 research; and the legislative finance committee, be requested
3 to:

4 A. conduct a comprehensive assessment of current
5 environmental conditions regarding alcohol access and use and
6 their impact on the health and well-being of New Mexicans;

7 B. identify evidence-based practices that address
8 any concerning environmental conditions that have a documented
9 negative impact on the health and well-being of New Mexicans
10 while ensuring that the economic interests of the state are
11 addressed;

12 C. study the impact of current environmental
13 conditions on youth access to alcohol and problem drinking; and

14 D. seek the advice of national experts on evidence-
15 based best practices when considering addressing state alcohol
16 environmental conditions; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report be presented to the
18 legislative health and human services committee and the
19 legislative finance committee before November 15, 2015; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the governor; the chair of the legislative
22 health and human services committee; the secretary of health;
23 the director of the alcohol and gaming division of the
24 regulation and licensing department; the secretary of economic
25 development; the secretary of transportation; the director of

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1 the university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic
2 research; and the chair of the legislative finance committee.

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