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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY

Christine Trujillo

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS IN REVENUE AND PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES AND THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF A TAX ON SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES IN THE STATE.

WHEREAS, according to the department of health, the overall diagnosed diabetes rate in New Mexico during 2014 to 2016 was ten and seven-tenths percent; and

WHEREAS, according to the department of health, between 2014 and 2016, the percentage of diabetes among American Indians in New Mexico was nineteen and seven-tenths percent and, among Hispanics in New Mexico, it was thirteen and six-tenths percent; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent study by the trust for America's health entitled "The State of Obesity: Better

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1 Policies for a Healthier America", New Mexico now has the  
2 thirty-second highest adult obesity rate in the United States;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico's adult obesity rate is currently  
5 twenty-eight and four-tenths percent, which indicates a  
6 precipitous rise in obesity rates, from the seventeen and four-  
7 tenths percent rate in 2000 and the eight and one-tenth percent  
8 rate in 1990; and

9 WHEREAS, the "State of Obesity" study indicates that  
10 nearly one in four, or twenty-four and nine-tenths percent, of  
11 children aged ten to seventeen years in New Mexico are obese;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in 2010, a team at the national institutes of  
14 health linked sugar-sweetened beverages with long-term weight  
15 gain, type two diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular risk,  
16 citing a number of other epidemiological studies; and

17 WHEREAS, the world health organization in October 2016  
18 called for jurisdictions to tax sugar-sweetened beverages in  
19 hopes that paying higher costs for these beverages would  
20 inhibit consumption and thus reduce obesity and diseases  
21 related to over-consumption of sugar; and

22 WHEREAS, the world health organization recommended a  
23 twenty percent increase in the cost of sodas and related sugar-  
24 sweetened beverages as it believes that this would lead to a  
25 twenty percent reduction in consumption; and

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1           WHEREAS, the proceeds of a tax on sweetened beverages  
2 could be used to offset the costs of obesity, diabetes and  
3 other public health challenges that New Mexico faces; and

4           WHEREAS, sugar-sweetened beverage taxes have been enacted  
5 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Boulder, Colorado; Berkeley, San  
6 Francisco, Oakland and Albany, California; and Cook county in  
7 Illinois as well as in France, Hungary, Ireland, Mexico and the  
8 United Kingdom; and

9           WHEREAS, a study published by the instituto nacional de  
10 salud publica, Mexico, and the university of North Carolina has  
11 shown decreases in soda purchases in Mexico pursuant to  
12 Mexico's sweetened-beverage tax; and

13           WHEREAS, in 2014, voters in the city of Berkeley,  
14 California, levied a penny-per-ounce tax on soda and other  
15 sugary drinks in order to inhibit sugar-sweetened beverage  
16 consumption and address increased rates of diabetes and  
17 obesity; and

18           WHEREAS, the *American Journal of Public Health* reported in  
19 October 2016 that after Berkeley's sweetened-beverage tax took  
20 effect in March 2015, residents of two low-income neighborhoods  
21 reported drinking twenty-one percent less of all sugar-  
22 sweetened beverages and twenty-six percent less of soda than  
23 they had the year before;

24           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative finance committee be

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1 requested to conduct a study of the potential revenue from  
2 imposing a sugar-sweetened beverage tax on the distributors of  
3 sugar-sweetened beverages; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance  
5 committee be requested to investigate the most effective way to  
6 impose a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance  
8 committee be requested to determine the health benefits of a  
9 tax on sugar-sweetened beverages as well as any potential  
10 negative effects of a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff for the legislative  
12 finance committee be requested to report its findings and  
13 recommendations by October 1, 2018 to the governor, the  
14 legislative finance committee, the legislative health and human  
15 services committee and the department of health; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the governor, the chair and vice chair of the  
18 legislative finance committee, the director of the legislative  
19 finance committee, the chair and vice chair of the legislative  
20 health and human services committee and the secretary of  
21 health.