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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
1996

INTRODUCED BY
ELIZABETH T. STEFANICS

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION TO
INVESTIGATE AND PREPARE A REPORT ON METHODS OF RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP VOTING AND PARTICIPATION.

WHEREAS, rural electric cooperatives provide electric
service throughout the state to rural residents and small
business and industrial customers; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico public utility commission has
supervisory and other regulatory authority over the rural
electric cooperatives doing business in this state; and

WHEREAS, the consumers of rural electric cooperatives are
member-owners of the cooperative providing electric service to
themselves; and

WHEREAS, rural electric cooperatives are identified as
being electric service providers that are representative of

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their consumer-members by the election of each cooperative's board of trustees from and by the cooperative's membership; and

WHEREAS, impartial, fair and representative methods of voting and participation are necessary in the rural electric cooperative program and operation, particularly in the election of trustees and in the adoption of governing bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the rural electric cooperatives are utilizing various methods of voting and participation by consumers throughout the state, some of which may not be fair, considering the practicalities of voting and participation by the consumers of each individual rural electric cooperative;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico public utility commission be requested to investigate the governing statutes, bylaws and practices of the state's rural electric cooperatives and identify the most fair, representative and practical methods of voting and participation in the election of trustees and the adoption of bylaws by the member-consumers of the state's rural electric cooperatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico public utility commission prepare a report on its investigation and recommendations and submit the report by December 1, 1996 to the appropriate interim legislative committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be sent to the New Mexico public utility commission.

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