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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

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

INTRODUCED BY

TOM R. BENAVIDES

A JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 20 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ADD A NEW SECTION MAKING SPANISH THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF NEW MEXICO.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. It is proposed to amend Article 20 of the constitution of New Mexico by adding a new section to read:

"A. Spanish is the historic language of the people of the state of New Mexico. This section is intended to preserve, protect and strengthen the Spanish language and not to supersede any of the rights guaranteed to the people by this constitution.

B. Spanish is the official language of the state of New Mexico.

C. The legislature shall enforce this section by

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1 appropriate legislation. The legislature and officials of the  
2 state of New Mexico shall take all steps necessary to ensure  
3 that the role of Spanish as the common language of the state of  
4 New Mexico is preserved and enhanced. The legislature shall  
5 make no law that diminishes or ignores the role of Spanish as  
6 the common language of the state of New Mexico.

7 D. Any person who is a resident or who is doing  
8 business in the state of New Mexico shall have standing to sue  
9 the state of New Mexico to enforce this section, and the  
10 district courts shall have jurisdiction to hear cases brought to  
11 enforce this section. The legislature may provide for  
12 reasonable and appropriate limitations on the time and manner of  
13 suits brought under this section. "

14 Section 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall  
15 be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at  
16 the next general election or at any special election prior to  
17 that date which may be called for that purpose.

1 FORTY- SECOND LEGI SLATURE  
2 SECOND SESSI ON, 1996

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4  
5 February 3, 1996

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7 Mr. President:

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9 Your RULES COMMI TTEE, to whom has been referred

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11 SENATE JOI NT RESOLUTION 22

12  
13 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
14 recommendation that it DO PASS, and thence referred to the  
15 PUBLIC AFFAI RS COMMI TTEE.

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17 Respectfully submit ted,

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22 Glori a Howes, Chair man  
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Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

Yes: 5

No: 0

Excused: EJennings, Altamirano, Aragon, Rutherford

Absent: 0

SR022RU1

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