

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

## INTRODUCED BY

Cathrynn N. Brown

## A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INSPECTION OF PUBLIC RECORDS ACT AND FOR THAT TASK FORCE TO GATHER INPUT FROM RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE WHETHER LEGISLATIVE CHANGES ARE NECESSARY AND, IF SO, TO PROPOSE SUCH LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the Inspection of Public Records Act provides the public with access to public records of government entities; and

WHEREAS, Section 14-2-1 NMSA 1978 declares that the policy of the state is that "[e]very person has a right to inspect public records of this state", with some exceptions; and

WHEREAS, providing access to public records promotes

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1 transparency in the operations of government and the conduct of  
2 public officials and employees and enables members of the  
3 public to hold government actors accountable; and

4 WHEREAS, the legislature has amended the Inspection of  
5 Public Records Act over time and should continue to evaluate  
6 that act to identify and implement improvements that promote  
7 clarity in its application, enhance transparency in government  
8 and strengthen public trust in state institutions;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the attorney general be directed to  
11 convene a task force to study the implementation of the  
12 Inspection of Public Records Act; gather input from relevant  
13 stakeholders; evaluate that act's workability, functionality  
14 and effectiveness in ensuring government transparency and  
15 serving the public interest; and, if necessary, draft proposed  
16 legislation based on the task force's findings and  
17 recommendations for consideration during the first session of  
18 the fifty-eighth legislature; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of one  
20 representative from each of the following: the office of the  
21 attorney general, the administrative office of the courts, the  
22 higher education department, the New Mexico municipal league,  
23 the New Mexico association of counties, the New Mexico  
24 foundation for open government, the American civil liberties  
25 union of New Mexico and the New Mexico press association; and

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1                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also include a  
2 defense attorney specializing in the Inspection of Public  
3 Records Act, a plaintiff's attorney specializing in the  
4 Inspection of Public Records Act and a public school records  
5 custodian; and

6                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force provide public  
7 notice of its meetings and allow the public to provide input on  
8 the work of the task force; and

9                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the attorney general.

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