

HOUSE MEMORIAL 23

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

## INTRODUCED BY

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## A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE REGULATION AND LICENSING DEPARTMENT, IN  
COLLABORATION WITH THE MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION OF THE TAXATION  
AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF  
REESTABLISHING A STATEWIDE MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION  
PROGRAM AND TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY WITH A  
RECOMMENDATION ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, there are four pillars vital to roadway safety: safe road design; qualified drivers; good driving decisions by motor vehicle operators; and safe motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, a study prepared for the Pennsylvania department of transportation by Cambridge systematics clearly shows that jurisdictions with motor vehicle safety inspection programs have significantly fewer fatal crashes than jurisdictions without such programs; and

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1           WHEREAS, a national study by Carnegie Mellon university  
2 presents strong evidence that jurisdictions experience lower  
3 roadway fatality rates due to the presence of an active motor  
4 vehicle safety inspection program; and

5           WHEREAS, the effectiveness of motor vehicle safety  
6 inspection programs continues to be deliberated in legislative  
7 bodies across the country; and

8           WHEREAS, the national highway traffic safety  
9 administration has stated that "each state should have a  
10 program for periodic inspection of all registered motor  
11 vehicles to reduce the number of motor vehicles with existing  
12 or potential conditions that may contribute to crashes or  
13 increase the severity of crashes that do occur and require the  
14 owner to correct such conditions"; and

15           WHEREAS, the fatality analysis reporting system of the  
16 national highway traffic safety administration indicates that,  
17 compared to the national average, states with motor vehicle  
18 safety inspections experience ten and three-tenths percent  
19 fewer deaths; and

20           WHEREAS, fifteen states require motor vehicles to undergo  
21 periodic safety inspections; and

22           WHEREAS, in 2024, motor vehicle safety inspections in  
23 Missouri detected defective equipment on approximately one in  
24 five motor vehicles; and

25           WHEREAS, modern motor vehicles are increasingly using

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1 extensive, advanced electronic safety components that motor  
2 vehicle operators are growing more dependent on to ensure their  
3 safety and the safety of others; and

4 WHEREAS, modern motor vehicles are incorporating safety  
5 technologies that are facilitating a trend toward autonomous  
6 and semi-autonomous operation; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico previously imposed a motor vehicle  
8 safety inspection program in the 1970s that proved too  
9 cumbersome for the state to continue to implement and that was  
10 subsequently ended;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that during the 2026  
13 legislative interim, the regulation and licensing department,  
14 in collaboration with the motor vehicle division of the  
15 taxation and revenue department, be requested to research and  
16 study the benefits of reestablishing a statewide motor vehicle  
17 safety inspection program and to report the results of the  
18 study with a recommendation on how to efficiently implement  
19 such a program to the department of transportation, the  
20 department of public safety, the governor and the New Mexico  
21 legislative council; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of transportation,  
24 the secretary of public safety, the superintendent of  
25 regulation and licensing, the director of the motor vehicle

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1 division of the taxation and revenue department and the  
2 co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative council.

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