

HOUSE MEMORIAL 38

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DESIGN A PILOT PROJECT
TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC, SAFETY AND GRID IMPACTS OF
INSTALLING PORTABLE SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES IN LOW-INCOME
HOUSEHOLDS.

WHEREAS, the Energy Transition Act established New Mexico as a national leader in clean energy, and the renewable energy portfolio standard requires the energy portfolio of an electric public utility to be composed of fifty percent renewable energy by 2030 and eighty percent by 2040 and to achieve one hundred percent carbon neutrality by 2045; and

WHEREAS, despite this progress, many low-income New Mexico residents continue to face significant energy insecurity, with many households below the federal poverty line spending sixteen

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1 to thirty percent of their income on energy costs, compared to
2 the state average of just three percent; and

3 WHEREAS, traditional rooftop solar installations remain
4 inaccessible to the majority of Americans, including renters,
5 apartment dwellers and households that cannot afford the high
6 upfront investment or do not qualify for traditional financing;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, plug-in or balcony solar systems, which are
9 small-scale, portable solar generation devices that plug
10 directly into a standard wall outlet, offer a potential
11 solution to bridge this gap by eliminating soft costs of
12 rooftop installation companies, such as marketing, installation
13 labor, permitting, overhead and profit, which comprise fifty to
14 sixty-five percent of the costs of traditional rooftop arrays;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, a controlled pilot project is a supportive step
17 to gather real-world data in New Mexico on the grid interaction
18 and economic benefit of portable solar generation devices in
19 preparation for wider legislative or regulatory frameworks
20 being established;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy,
23 minerals and natural resources department be requested to
24 convene a working group composed of one or more electric
25 utilities or electric service providers operating within or

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1 serving the state and one or more nonprofit or mission-driven
2 organizations that demonstrate experience in equitable clean
3 energy deployment, community-based engagement with low-income
4 households and the development or implementation to design a
5 portable solar pilot project; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and
7 natural resources department be requested to select nonprofit
8 or mission-driven organizations to participate in the working
9 group that demonstrate a commitment to serving renters and low-
10 income households, the capacity to conduct participant
11 education and outreach and the technical ability to support
12 safe installation, monitoring and evaluation of portable solar
13 generation devices; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
15 to design a portable solar pilot project that allows for the
16 installation of portable solar generation devices on the
17 rooftops or balconies of between five and ten low-income
18 households within the service territories of participating
19 electric public utilities, including where a generation and
20 transmission cooperative coordinates or supports implementation
21 in partnership with its member utilities, and the primary
22 objectives of the project be to:

23 A. quantify the direct economic benefits to
24 participants, specifically analyzing the monthly reduction in
25 energy costs for low-income households; and

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1 B. assess the impact of these distributed micro-
2 generators on participating utilities' local distribution to
3 inform future legislation; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
5 to present its findings and recommendations to the interim
6 legislative committee dealing with energy and natural resources
7 by November 1, 2026; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
10 resources.

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