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SENATE MEMORIAL 7

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONVENE A
REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS TO
IMPROVE NEW MEXICO'S REDISTRICTING PROCESS, INCLUDING PROPOSED
LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

WHEREAS, redistricting has proven to be a contentious
process, which has often been unresolved in the legislative
process and had to be settled by the courts in 2001 and 2011;
and

WHEREAS, court cases regarding the 2001 and 2011
redistricting processes cost the state more than nine million
dollars (\$9,000,000); and

WHEREAS, implementing the Redistricting Act, enacted in
2021, improved the redistricting process, especially with
regard to public engagement in the process; and

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1 WHEREAS, the composition of the citizen redistricting
2 committee created by the Redistricting Act was not
3 representative of the demographic diversity and geographic
4 distribution of the population of New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, the maps created by the citizen redistricting
6 committee had advisory status only and were not binding on the
7 legislature; and

8 WHEREAS, the court battles over the past three
9 redistricting processes seriously undermined the public's
10 confidence in the political process; and

11 WHEREAS, the New Mexico supreme court has ruled that
12 egregious partisan gerrymandering violates the equal protection
13 clause of the constitution of New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, gerrymandering disenfranchises voters by
15 undermining the fundamental premise of one person, one vote;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, it is crucial to have meaningful public awareness
18 of and input into the redistricting process; and

19 WHEREAS, the legislative interim provides an opportunity
20 for the legislature to study this complex subject in detail
21 while including stakeholders in the process;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
24 requested to convene a redistricting task force to develop
25 concrete recommendations to improve New Mexico's redistricting

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1 process, including proposed legislation to implement the
2 recommendations; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work of the redistricting
4 task force include: identifying potential revisions to the
5 Redistricting Act to address the lack of diversity in the
6 citizen redistricting committee's membership and the advisory
7 status of the committee's maps; examining other states'
8 successes and failures in regard to revising the redistricting
9 process, including the creation of independent redistricting
10 commissions to redistrict state offices; and considering any
11 other reforms to the redistricting process; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the redistricting task
13 force's work, the redistricting task force receive
14 presentations and information from the following: major and
15 minor political parties in New Mexico; representatives of
16 Indian nations, tribes and pueblos; representatives of the 2021
17 citizen redistricting committee; state and national
18 organizations working on voting, elections, government
19 transparency and democracy; experts in demography and
20 geolocation; and additional experts as determined by the chair
21 of the task force; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the redistricting task force
23 be requested to present its findings and recommendations to the
24 New Mexico legislative council and at least two additional
25 interim committees for discussion by December 31, 2027; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the redistricting task force
2 be composed of thirteen to fifteen members that reflect the
3 demographic and geographic distribution of the state,
4 including: four legislative members, one each appointed by the
5 president pro tempore of the senate, the speaker of the house
6 of representatives, the minority floor leader of the senate and
7 the minority floor leader of the house of representatives; the
8 state chairs or designees of each major political party; and
9 seven to nine members of the general public of New Mexico who
10 are appointed by the state ethics commission, at least three of
11 whom are not affiliated with a major political party and
12 including at least one member of the 2021 citizen redistricting
13 committee, two representatives of Indian nations, tribes or
14 pueblos and one member with experience in demography and
15 geolocation and may include representatives from state
16 organizations that work on voting, elections, government
17 transparency and democracy; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the redistricting task force
19 may elect a chair and such other officers as it deems necessary
20 to carry out the redistricting task force's duties; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative council
22 service be requested to supply or contract for appropriate
23 staff for the redistricting task force. Staff may assist the
24 redistricting task force as directed by the chair. The
25 redistricting task force may request assistance from the

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1 legislative council service to draft appropriate legislation
2 for consideration by the legislature; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico legislative
5 council.

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