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SENATE MEMORIAL 21

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

INTRODUCED BY

Heather Berghmans

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO
EVALUATE THE EFFICACY OF IMPLEMENTING OVERDOSE PREVENTION
CENTERS IN THE STATE AND TO DETERMINE THE NECESSARY STATUTORY
AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK NEEDED TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT
OVERDOSE PREVENTION CENTERS.

WHEREAS, for the last two decades, New Mexico has had one
of the highest drug overdose death rates in the nation; and

WHEREAS, most states in the nation observed a decrease in
drug overdose deaths beginning in 2024; and

WHEREAS, following a slight decrease in drug overdose
deaths in 2024, New Mexico is one of only three states that
experienced an increase in drug overdose deaths in 2025, with a
four and one-tenth percent increase in drug overdose deaths
over the previous year; and

1 WHEREAS, drug overdose deaths continue to
2 disproportionately impact communities of color, with rates
3 rising faster among Native American and Black New Mexico
4 residents; and

5 WHEREAS, drug overdose deaths can be prevented through
6 various harm reduction strategies; and

7 WHEREAS, the establishment of overdose prevention centers
8 in other jurisdictions has been a particularly effective harm
9 reduction strategy; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico has not yet adopted the use of
11 overdose prevention centers; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to look to new harm reduction
13 strategies to reverse the current trend of increasing overdose
14 deaths;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
16 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to
17 conduct a study to evaluate the efficacy of implementing
18 overdose prevention centers in the state and to determine the
19 necessary statutory and regulatory framework to develop and
20 implement overdose prevention centers; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
22 requested to provide a report summarizing the conclusions of
23 the study to the legislative health and human services
24 committee and the legislative finance committee by November 1,
25 2026; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the secretary of health and the chairs and vice
3 chairs of the legislative health and human services committee
4 and the legislative finance committee.

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