

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 7

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

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FOR THE NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER HEALTH COMMISSION
TO STUDY THE NEED FOR CROSS-BORDER AGREEMENTS RELATED TO FIRE
PROTECTION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND OTHER PUBLIC
HEALTH AND SAFETY NEEDS.

WHEREAS, the United States-Mexico border region,
encompassing one hundred kilometers north and south of the
border, has an estimated 2000 population of over eleven
million; and

WHEREAS, almost every health statistic for the border
region is a grim reminder of the effects of poverty and
severe health professional shortages, with a terrible
resurgence of communicable diseases such as drug-resistant
tuberculosis, measles and mumps and waterborne infectious
diseases such as Hepatitis A, salmonella and shigella
dysentery, diseases that most Americans thought had been

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1 eradicated in the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, the border region also must grapple with the
3 need for increased public safety resources, including fire
4 protection and emergency medical services; and

5 WHEREAS, the two countries need to work closely together
6 to try to solve border health problems and provide public
7 safety services;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States-Mexico border
10 health commission be requested to study the need for cross-
11 border agreements to provide public health and safety
12 services in the border region; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of its study, the
14 United States-Mexico border health commission consider legal,
15 jurisdictional and liability issues and the means to resolve
16 those issues; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the New Mexico border health office for
19 presentation to the United States-Mexico border health
20 commission.