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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 54
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003
INTRODUCED BY
J. Paul Taylor

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE STATE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC RECORDS TO ESTABLISH
A MULTI-AGENCY TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE STATE'S CONFIDENTIALITY
AND ACCESS PROVISIONS REGARDING PERMANENT PUBLIC RECORDS AND TO
MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**WHEREAS, public records are preserved to promote
accountability in government by providing a foundation for the
development of present and future policies and for
understanding New Mexico's history; and**

**WHEREAS, the constitution and the legislature have
recognized the need for the protection of personal privacy; and**

**WHEREAS, the legislature has also recognized, in the
Inspection of Public Records Act, the need for open government;
and**

WHEREAS, the state records center and archives, alone,

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1 currently maintains over forty thousand linear feet of
2 permanent confidential records; and

3 WHEREAS, the original need for the confidentiality of many
4 of the state's permanent public records may no longer exist;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, many of these records are of great value to
7 social scientists, scholarly researchers, genealogists,
8 teachers of history and students, yet they are not accessible
9 to the public; and

10 WHEREAS, the state commission of public records is charged
11 with the management of the state's public records and, in that
12 role, advocates the preservation and protection of and access
13 to the state's public records;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state commission of public records
16 be requested to establish a multi-agency task force to study
17 confidentiality and open access in the management of the
18 state's permanent public records and to develop recommendations
19 concerning any modifications thereto; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
21 progress and recommendations to the appropriate legislative
22 interim committee appointed by the New Mexico legislative
23 council no later than October 2003; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the state commission of public records, the

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1 office of the governor, the offices of the attorney general and
2 other statewide elected officials and to the New Mexico
3 legislative council.

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