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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 81  
**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**

INTRODUCED BY  
Eric A. Youngberg

A JOINT MEMORIAL  
REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A RED  
RIBBON COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE STATE'S LAWS AND RECOMMEND  
REPEAL OF OBSOLETE LAWS.

WHEREAS, the state's citizen-legislators labor mightily  
and work diligently to enact laws that properly reflect the  
current state of affairs and that are relevant to the  
challenges, problems and conditions facing the public; and

WHEREAS, over time, laws that were enacted may lose their  
relevance but are not repealed because legislators are  
necessarily more concerned with enacting new laws to address  
current issues than with repealing obsolete laws; and

WHEREAS, examples of laws currently on the books in the  
state of New Mexico that might be considered by some to be  
obsolete include a prohibition against dueling, a requirement

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1 that communists register with the state and a law allowing  
2 those who lose a bet to recover their losses by suing the  
3 winner; and

4 WHEREAS, the state also prohibits putting pictures of  
5 honeybees on imitation honey, dancing for more than twenty-four  
6 hours and selling used watches without a "secondhand" label;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, legislative bodies should periodically review the  
9 relevance of prohibitions against spitting on sidewalks,  
10 guarantees that women can hold public office and the statutory  
11 existence of bicentennial commissions;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be  
14 requested to create a red ribbon committee of legislators to  
15 meet in the 2005 interim to review the state's laws and  
16 recommend to the second session of the forty-seventh  
17 legislature which laws, if any, may have outlived their  
18 usefulness or relevance; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
21 council.

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