1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 45
2	47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Michael S. Sanchez
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10	A JOINT MEMORIAL
11	REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF
12	HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTION RATES IN NEW MEXICO.
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14	WHEREAS, hospital-acquired infections affect approximately
15	one million nine hundred thousand Americans each year;
16	WHEREAS, hospital-acquired infections cost billions of
17	dollars per year nationwide and result in increased expenses to
18	patients for extended hospital stays and additional medication;
19	and
20	WHEREAS, approximately ninety thousand Americans die each
21	year from hospital-acquired infections; and
22	WHEREAS, more people die from hospital-acquired infections
23	than from automobile accidents and homicides combined; and
24	WHEREAS, many of the deaths and illnesses that result from
25	hospital-acquired infections are preventable; and
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WHEREAS, hand-washing has been shown to reduce hospitalacquired infections significantly, but hand-washing compliance rates are generally less than fifty percent nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the study and public disclosure of hospital infection rates provide a strong incentive for hospitals to improve those rates; and

WHEREAS, the study and public disclosure of hospitalacquired infection rates will facilitate the provision of information that the public needs to choose hospitals that achieve low infection rates and avoid those hospitals that do not achieve low infection rates; and

WHEREAS, studies of comprehensive hospital programs designed to address all types of hospital-acquired infections have realized reductions in hospital-acquired infections of more than fifty percent; and

WHEREAS, four states, Florida, Illinois, Missouri and Pennsylvania, require public disclosure of hospital-acquired infection rates; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has an opportunity to be at the forefront of reform with respect to this issue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to conduct a comprehensive study of hospital-acquired infection rates in New Mexico and present a written report of those infection rates that includes methods of prevention of

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	1	hospital-acquired infections to the appropriate interim
	2	committee of the legislature by December 31, 2005; and
	3	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that duplicate copies of the
	4	department of health's report be filed with the legislative
	5	council service library upon presentation of the report to the
	6	appropriate interim committee of the legislature; and
	7	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
	8	transmitted to the secretary of health.
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