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SENATE MEMORIAL 40

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Kent L. Cravens

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PURPOSE OF VERIFYING THE AGE
OF PURCHASERS OF ALCOHOL.**

**WHEREAS, on a national level, motor vehicle crashes are
the leading cause of death among young people between the ages
of fifteen and nineteen; and**

**WHEREAS, on a national level, thirty percent of all motor
vehicle crashes involving young people that result in injury
involve alcohol; and**

**WHEREAS, one-third of fatal motor vehicle collisions in
New Mexico caused by drivers between the ages of fifteen and
twenty are alcohol-related; and**

**WHEREAS, binge drinking, which is the consumption of five
or more alcoholic drinks within two hours, has increased among**

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1 New Mexico high school students from twenty-nine percent in
2 2001 to thirty-five percent in 2003, compared with the national
3 average of twenty-nine percent; and

4 WHEREAS, drivers between the ages of fifteen and twenty
5 who are arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol in
6 New Mexico have a mean blood alcohol content of thirteen
7 hundredths; and

8 WHEREAS, although drivers between the ages of fifteen and
9 twenty represented only eight and four-tenths percent of
10 licensed drivers in New Mexico in the year 2000, these drivers
11 were involved in eighteen percent of alcohol-related crashes in
12 that year; and

13 WHEREAS, there are proportionately more young people under
14 twenty-one years old in New Mexico who drink and drive than
15 persons over twenty-one who drink and drive; and

16 WHEREAS, drivers under twenty-one years of age in New
17 Mexico are involved in alcohol-related collisions that cause
18 more injuries since this age group tends to have many occupants
19 in the vehicle; and

20 WHEREAS, the number of adolescents who reported having
21 consumed at least one drink of alcohol on school property has
22 doubled in New Mexico from seven percent in 2001 to fourteen
23 percent in 2003; and

24 WHEREAS, nineteen percent of New Mexico high school
25 students report drinking and driving as compared with thirteen

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1 percent nationwide;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
3 OF NEW MEXICO that the director of the alcohol and gaming
4 division of the regulation and licensing department and the
5 governor's DWI coordinator be requested to assemble a task
6 force to study and investigate available and emerging
7 electronic technology that verifies the age of each person who
8 purchases or is served alcohol in New Mexico and make
9 recommendations on the implementation of such technology; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
11 representatives from the public health division of the
12 department of health, the New Mexico sheriffs and police
13 association, the New Mexico restaurant association, the New
14 Mexico retailers association, the New Mexico hospitality
15 association, the New Mexico grocers association, the New Mexico
16 lodgers association, the independent petroleum marketers
17 association, mothers against drunk driving, the DWI resource
18 center and other interested groups; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the director of the alcohol
20 and gaming division of the regulation and licensing department
21 and the governor's DWI coordinator report to the appropriate
22 interim legislative committee on the status of electronic age
23 verification technology and recommend legislation to facilitate
24 the use of such technology in all businesses that sell or serve
25 alcohol to the public; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the alcohol and gaming division of the regulation and licensing department and the governor's DWI coordinator.

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