

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 48

2 47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
12 TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF INCREASING  
13 THE USE OF SIMULATOR DRIVER TRAINING FOR ON-ROAD DRIVER  
14 TRAINING.

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16 WHEREAS, a motor vehicle accident occurs about every ten  
17 minutes in New Mexico, resulting in an injury every twenty  
18 minutes and a death every seventeen hours in 2004; and

19 WHEREAS, young drivers between the ages of fifteen years  
20 and nineteen years have the highest crash rate; and

21 WHEREAS, better driver education, including the increased  
22 use of driving simulators, may help reduce the crash rate for  
23 young drivers; and

24 WHEREAS, the use of driving simulators has the advantage  
25 of safely exposing students to the hazards of day-to-day

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1 driving situations and can help improve the motor skills  
2 reaction time and decision-making process of students; and

3 WHEREAS, regulations adopted by the department of  
4 transportation require for-profit driver education schools to  
5 provide at least seven hours of behind-the-wheel instruction to  
6 each student and restrict the use of driving simulators by  
7 counting two hours of simulator training as just one hour of  
8 on-the-road training;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the traffic safety bureau of the  
11 department of transportation be requested to study the  
12 potential benefits of increasing the use of driving simulators  
13 as a substitute for on-the-road training and that the  
14 department be requested to consider allowing time on simulator  
15 training to be counted equally to on-the-road training; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the secretary of transportation and the chief of  
18 the traffic safety bureau.