

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS.

WHEREAS, driving under the influence of drugs is a serious problem in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two percent of fatal motor vehicle crashes involved drugs other than alcohol in the years 2000 to 2006 in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, between the years 2000 and 2006, the incidence of cocaine use in fatal motor vehicle crashes increased by one hundred seventy percent in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, between the years 2000 and 2006, the incidence of methamphetamine use involved in fatal motor vehicle crashes increased by eighty-nine percent in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, it is rare that anyone in New Mexico is charged or convicted of driving under the influence of drugs; and

WHEREAS, the national highway traffic safety administration reports that sixteen thousand people are killed annually due to drunk and drugged driving; and

WHEREAS, the national highway traffic safety administration estimates that drugs are used by approximately ten to twenty-two percent of drivers involved in motor vehicle crashes, often in combination with alcohol; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, drugs other than alcohol that act on the brain have increasingly been recognized as hazards to road traffic safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the chief of the traffic safety bureau of the department of transportation, the director of the scientific laboratory division of the department of health and the secretary of public safety convene a task force to study the extent of the problem of driving under the influence of drugs in New Mexico and how such a problem can be addressed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force research the effectiveness of other state laws in addressing the problem of driving under the influence of drugs and make recommendations for changes in New Mexico law to more effectively address the problem of driving under the influence of drugs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief of the traffic safety bureau, the director of the scientific laboratory division and the secretary of public safety report to the appropriate interim legislative committee by November 2007 on the study and the recommendations of the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretaries of transportation, health and public safety.