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HOUSE MEMORIAL 102

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

William "Bill" R. Rehm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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