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HOUSE MEMORIAL 130

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Richard D. Vigil

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE  
STUDY OF THE ANNUAL ECONOMIC AND HUMAN COST OF ALCOHOL USE IN  
NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, each day lives are lost in New Mexico as a direct  
or indirect result of alcohol consumption; and

WHEREAS, according to the national institute on alcohol  
abuse and alcoholism, alcohol abuse and its related problems  
cost society many billions of dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, a recent study conducted by the Marin institute  
in California concluded that one person dies every hour due to  
alcohol use in California; and

WHEREAS, this study also concluded that the total economic  
cost of alcohol abuse in California is one thousand dollars  
(\$1,000) per resident per year, or thirty-eight billion four  
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1 hundred million dollars (\$38,400,000,000) annually; and

2 WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by ECONorthwest,  
3 titled *The Economic Costs of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Oregon*  
4 *in 2006*, the total direct cost attributed to alcohol abuse in  
5 Oregon was estimated at three billion two hundred forty-four  
6 million dollars (\$3,244,000,000), or eight times the amount  
7 collected in tax revenues for the sale of alcohol in that year;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the economic cost associated with alcohol use in  
10 Minnesota was estimated at four billion nine hundred million  
11 dollars (\$4,900,000,000) in 2001, an amount that was nineteen  
12 times greater than the tax revenues collected from alcohol  
13 sales; and

14 WHEREAS, no similar comprehensive study has been conducted  
15 in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, such a study would be beneficial for the purpose  
17 of identifying not only the economic, but the human cost of  
18 alcohol abuse in New Mexico;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department  
21 of health be requested to conduct a comprehensive study of the  
22 annual economic and human cost of alcohol use in New Mexico;  
23 and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this initial study encompass  
25 the two-year time period of January 1, 2005 through December

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1 31, 2007, establishing a baseline of data, and that follow-up  
2 studies be conducted annually thereafter; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study address the direct  
4 and indirect economic costs to New Mexico of alcohol use and  
5 abuse, including at a minimum the number of lives lost due to  
6 alcohol use; the number of incidents attributable to alcohol  
7 use; crimes associated with alcohol use; property damage  
8 attributable to alcohol use; costs associated with illness or  
9 injury caused by alcohol use; pain, suffering and quality-of-  
10 life issues related to alcohol abuse; and the cost incurred by  
11 state government as a result of alcohol use or abuse in the  
12 state; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the study be  
14 made public and be presented to the interim legislative health  
15 and human services committee by November 1, 2009, and annually  
16 thereafter; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the department of health.

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