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SENATE MEMORIAL 51

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Lynda M. Lovejoy

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE
APPROPRIATE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE
STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the public regulation commission is charged with
very challenging and diverse responsibilities, including
regulating public utilities, motor carriers, telecommunications
companies and the insurance industry, ensuring pipeline safety,
overseeing the state fire marshal's office and the firefighter
training academy bureau and registering all corporations doing
business in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, members of the public rely on the public
regulation commission to protect their interests and to ensure
fair and reasonable rates as well as adequate services; and

WHEREAS, the public regulation commission is governed by

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1 five elected members who are not required to have any
2 experience in utility regulation yet are entrusted to handle
3 that very complex matter for all New Mexicans; and

4 WHEREAS, various members of the public regulation
5 commission have faced ethical and criminal charges that have
6 shaken the public's confidence in the commission; and

7 WHEREAS, a recent ethics survey completed by the staff of
8 the public regulation commission revealed claims of unethical
9 behavior and concern by employees over hiring and promotional
10 practices; and

11 WHEREAS, the public regulation commission would benefit
12 from an examination of its structure and function to ensure
13 that it can effectively and efficiently meet its
14 responsibilities and to ensure that the public is being served
15 in the best possible way;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
17 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
18 requested to direct the appropriate interim legislative
19 committee to study the structure and function of the public
20 regulation commission; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of the study, the
22 committee be directed to consider oversight requirements,
23 specific member qualifications and the inclusion of appointed
24 members on the public regulation commission; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be directed to

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1 hold a hearing on the issue by November 1, 2010; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
4 council and the members of the public regulation commission.

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