

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 30

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Patricia A. Lundstrom

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS THE STATE'S  
PLANNING DISTRICTS.

WHEREAS, in 1967, pursuant to the Regional Planning Act,  
New Mexico established seven planning districts, also known as  
"councils of governments" or "planning districts", throughout  
the state; and

WHEREAS, these seven planning districts received official  
designation by the federal government through the Public Works  
and Economic Development Act of 1965, and they serve as  
regional economic development districts for the federal  
economic development administration; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, New Mexico enacted the Planning District  
Act, which defines certain geographic boundaries for each of  
the seven planning districts, clarifies the scope of services

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 and provides certain parameters of programs and technical  
2 assistance, thus expanding on the Regional Planning Act; and

3 WHEREAS, over the years, the seven planning districts have  
4 assisted local governments through planning and technical  
5 assistance, have evolved to meet the needs of their unique  
6 regions and have increased the range of services provided; and

7 WHEREAS, by virtue of the direction given to them by  
8 their respective boards, commissions or councils, each planning  
9 district has special areas of concentration, such as planning  
10 and development programs related to seniors, housing,  
11 transportation, colonias, tribal entities, land grants,  
12 comprehensive planning, work force development, transit, water  
13 and wastewater systems, business development, sustainable  
14 community development, revolving loan fund management,  
15 environmental protection, including brownfields revitalization,  
16 and economic development; and

17 WHEREAS, every state in the country utilizes some form of  
18 designated regional development organizations, and there are  
19 more than four hundred such organizations functioning today in  
20 the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, many of the regional development organizations in  
22 the United States have had to assess their role and performance  
23 in supporting local, regional and state planning and  
24 development efforts and outcomes and work with state and  
25 regional leaders to innovate, remain relevant and strengthen

.184905.3

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 the utilization, accountability and effectiveness of these  
2 organizations; and

3 WHEREAS, there is a major opportunity for New Mexico's  
4 planning districts to provide local, regional and statewide  
5 leadership in planning and directing public and private  
6 investments into projects, programs and strategic economic  
7 initiatives;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the local  
10 government division of the department of finance and  
11 administration, the department of transportation and the  
12 governor's office be requested to convene a task force with the  
13 New Mexico association of regional councils, including all  
14 seven of the state's planning districts, to prepare a report  
15 that will assess the planning districts, with a focus on  
16 utilization and accountability; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this report be presented to  
18 the legislative finance committee prior to December 1, 2011;  
19 and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of finance and  
22 administration, the director of the local government division  
23 of the department of finance and administration, the secretary  
24 of transportation and the board chairpersons and executive  
25 directors of each of the state's seven planning districts.

.184905.3