

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE  
3 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TOBACCO USE AND EMPLOYER COSTS, INCLUDING  
4 THE IMPACTS ON ORGANIZATIONS THAT EMPLOY TOBACCO USERS.

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6 WHEREAS, tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of  
7 death in the United States, responsible for about one of every  
8 five deaths annually; and

9 WHEREAS, smoking cost the United States more than one  
10 hundred ninety-three billion dollars (\$193,000,000,000) a year  
11 between 2001 and 2004, including ninety-seven billion dollars  
12 (\$97,000,000,000) in lost productivity annually and ninety-six  
13 billion dollars (\$96,000,000,000) in direct health care  
14 expenditures annually; and

15 WHEREAS, smoking accounted for more than three million  
16 years of potential life lost in men and two million years of  
17 potential life lost in women between 2000 and 2004, reducing  
18 life expectancy by approximately fourteen years; and

19 WHEREAS, smoking-attributable health care expenditures  
20 totaled an estimated ninety-six billion dollars  
21 (\$96,000,000,000) annually between 2001 and 2004, up more than  
22 twenty billion dollars (\$20,000,000,000) from  
23 seventy-five billion five hundred million dollars  
24 (\$75,500,000,000) in 1998; and

25 WHEREAS, there are no incentives for New Mexico

1 employers to establish smoking cessation programs or develop  
2 tobacco-free campuses; and

3 WHEREAS, on the contrary, New Mexico law may actually  
4 impede efforts to reduce tobacco use, interfere with  
5 reasonable employment practices and not allow for incentives  
6 for employers to improve employee health and productivity; and

7 WHEREAS, the state would benefit from a review of those  
8 laws;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a task force of interested  
11 organizations, including but not limited to the following, be  
12 formed to study the relationship between tobacco use and  
13 employer costs, including the impacts on organizations that  
14 employ tobacco users, and recommend changes in laws to  
15 decrease workplace productivity losses and employer and  
16 employee health care and insurance costs due to tobacco use:  
17 the association of commerce and industry of New Mexico,  
18 New Mexico chambers of commerce, the New Mexico hospital  
19 association, leading health care providers in New Mexico, the  
20 insurance division of the public regulation commission or its  
21 successor, the American lung association, the New Mexico  
22 medical society, the American cancer society, the greater  
23 Albuquerque medical association and two representatives of the  
24 tobacco industry; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative

1 council be requested to appoint up to four public members to  
2 the task force; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public health division  
4 of the department of health be invited to participate in the  
5 task force; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested  
7 to report its findings and recommendations to the legislative  
8 health and human services committee by November 1, 2013; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to representatives of the aforementioned  
11 organizations and the public health division of the department  
12 of health. \_\_\_\_\_

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