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HOUSE MEMORIAL 38

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Matthew McQueen

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE POSSIBLE PUBLIC SAFETY, ECONOMIC AND HEALTH IMPACTS OF ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM RETAIL UNIT PRICE FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BASED ON ALCOHOL CONTENT.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has the highest alcohol-related death rate in the nation; and

WHEREAS, excessive alcohol consumption costs New Mexicans over two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) each year, according to department of health statistics; and

WHEREAS, according to department of health statistics, for the last several years, more than one hundred New Mexicans have died each year in vehicle crashes involving alcohol; and

WHEREAS, the department of transportation statistics show that, in 2011, a person was killed or injured in an alcohol-involved crash every five hours; and

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1           WHEREAS, alcohol intoxication is a factor in many New  
2 Mexico domestic violence incidents; and

3           WHEREAS, a report issued by the department of health  
4 states that, for the past fifteen years, New Mexico's death  
5 rate from alcohol-related chronic disease has consistently been  
6 first or second in the nation and is one and one-half to two  
7 times the national rate; and

8           WHEREAS, in Canada, the establishment of a minimum retail  
9 unit price for alcoholic beverages, which increased the price  
10 of only the cheapest alcohol, has been demonstrated to reduce  
11 harmful incidences associated with alcohol consumption in that  
12 country by half; and

13           WHEREAS, while a minimum retail unit price for alcoholic  
14 beverages is not currently established in New Mexico, the state  
15 would benefit from a study of the possible impact of  
16 establishing this minimum price, which would provide the  
17 information necessary to determine whether a similar initiative  
18 could reduce the adverse effects of alcohol 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, in cooperation with the alcohol and gaming division  
22 of the regulation and licensing department, the New Mexico  
23 state police division of the department of public safety and  
24 the economic development department, be requested to study the  
25 possible public safety, economic and health impacts of

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1 establishing a minimum retail price for alcoholic beverages  
2 based on the alcohol content; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of the study be  
4 presented to the legislative health and human services  
5 committee and the legislative finance committee before December  
6 31, 2015; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the secretary of health and the chairs of the  
9 legislative health and human services committee and the  
10 legislative finance committee.