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HOUSE MEMORIAL 96

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Christine Trujillo

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CHARGE THE
LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE WITH CONDUCTING A STUDY OF THE
POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF A GROSS RECEIPTS TAX
ON SOME OR ALL FOOD.

WHEREAS, according to the department of health, the
overall diagnosed diabetes rate during the years 2014 to 2016
was ten and seven-tenths percent of the New Mexico population;
and

WHEREAS, according to the department of health, between
the years 2014 and 2016, the percentage of diabetes among
American Indians in New Mexico was nineteen and seven-tenths
percent, while the average among Hispanics in New Mexico was
thirteen and six-tenths percent; and

WHEREAS, according to the fourteenth annual report by the

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1 trust for America's health entitled "*State of Obesity: Better*
2 *Policies for a Healthier America*", New Mexico now has the
3 thirty-second highest adult obesity rate in the United States;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico's adult obesity rate is currently
6 twenty-eight and four-tenths percent, which indicates a
7 precipitous rise in obesity rates from the seventeen and four-
8 tenths percent rate in the year 2000 and the eight and one-
9 tenth percent rate in the year 1990; and

10 WHEREAS, the state of obesity report indicates that nearly
11 one in four children aged ten to seventeen years in New Mexico,
12 or twenty-four and nine-tenths percent, are obese; and

13 WHEREAS, the proceeds of a gross receipts tax on some or
14 all food items could be used to offset the costs of obesity,
15 diabetes and other public health challenges that New Mexico
16 faces;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
19 legislative council be requested to charge the legislative
20 finance committee with conducting a study of the potential
21 benefits and negative impacts of imposing a gross receipts tax
22 on the sale of some or all food items; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
24 council be requested to charge the legislative finance
25 committee with soliciting input and participation from all

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1 potentially interested persons; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance
3 committee be requested to investigate the most effective way to
4 impose a gross receipts tax on food items if a tax is deemed
5 more beneficial than detrimental to the public interest; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance
7 committee be requested to charge its staff with reporting its
8 findings and recommendations by October 1, 2018 to the
9 governor, the legislative finance committee, the legislative
10 health and human services committee and the department of
11 health; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor, the director and the chair and
14 vice chair of the legislative finance committee, the chair and
15 vice chair of the legislative health and human services
16 committee and the secretary of health.

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