

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

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

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONVENE A  
WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGES UNIQUE TO FRONTIER  
COMMUNITIES AND TO PROPOSE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO FACILITATE  
INVESTMENT IN THOSE COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, frontier communities are the remote and  
geographically isolated settlements and villages that over  
centuries evolved into the land of enchantment and still today  
represent a majority of the state's landmass; and

WHEREAS, frontier communities face unique economic and  
social challenges, many of which need assistance from federal,  
state or local government to be overcome; and

WHEREAS, many frontier communities in New Mexico are  
unincorporated and face exceptional barriers to eligibility for  
public resources; and

.209561.1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, creative problem-solving supported by innovative  
2 legislative action is needed to preserve and protect  
3 the smallest communities in the state and to develop necessary  
4 infrastructure, services and amenities; and

5           WHEREAS, there is a need to identify best practices for  
6 ensuring that the frontier areas of New Mexico survive and  
7 thrive into the future;

8           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be  
10 requested to coordinate with the southwest New Mexico-based  
11 national center for frontier communities to convene a working  
12 group to identify innovative ways to direct investment and  
13 reinvestment of state resources into frontier communities for  
14 the development of infrastructure, community and essential  
15 services; and

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that development experts and  
17 interested parties from throughout the state be invited to  
18 participate in the working group, including, for example,  
19 representatives of the New Mexico municipal league; the New  
20 Mexico association of counties; colonias; tribal governments  
21 and inter-tribal organizations; relevant state agencies; the  
22 governor's office; private foundations; community  
23 organizations; colleges and universities; the New Mexico  
24 association of regional councils; and members of the public;  
25 and

.209561.1

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group review  
2 existing law to determine if it facilitates equitable  
3 investment in frontier communities and, if it is determined  
4 that new legislation is needed, develop recommendations for  
5 legislative action; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group hold several  
7 public stakeholder meetings around the state to identify the  
8 essential needs of the smallest and most isolated frontier  
9 communities and to receive input on legislative solutions that  
10 address frontier community needs; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group report its  
12 findings and legislative recommendations to the appropriate  
13 interim legislative committee by November 2019; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
16 council and the director of the national center for frontier  
17 communities.