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SENATE MEMORIAL 4

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic has made the need for a strong public health system more urgent; and

WHEREAS, the national conference of state legislatures has begun to focus on public health infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a centralized public health infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the state has already developed interagency cooperation among the agencies involved in health care; and

WHEREAS, further collaboration among state agencies, local and county governments, academic institutions and nonprofit organizations has the potential to improve the public health

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1 infrastructure, improve the health of New Mexicans and reduce
2 costs;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
4 OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of health be requested to
5 convene a public health task force to study public health
6 infrastructure and procedures in New Mexico; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the areas to be considered for
8 study include, but not be limited to, public health
9 infrastructure, the public health workforce, the status of the
10 social determinants of health and laws that protect public
11 health; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public health task force
13 be requested to recommend strategies for improving public
14 health infrastructure in New Mexico; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of health be
16 requested to include the following participants in the public
17 health task force: relevant state agencies, representatives
18 from local and county governments, relevant academic programs
19 and relevant nonprofit organizations; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
21 recommendations of the task force be presented to the
22 legislative health and human services committee by December 1,
23 2021; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health and the

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executive director of the New Mexico association of counties.