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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

James G. Townsend and Rod Montoya

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO IMPLEMENT A
POLICY TO ADOPT AND TO REQUIRE ALL INTERIM COMMITTEES CREATED
OR APPOINTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE PROVISIONS
OF SECTION 10-15-2 NMSA 1978 OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

WHEREAS, a representative government is dependent upon an
informed electorate; and

WHEREAS, the Open Meetings Act, also called a sunshine
law, requires that meetings of the state legislature and other
public bodies be open to the public so that the people of the
state have the greatest possible information regarding the
internal workings of their government; and

WHEREAS, much of the work of the legislature is done
during the interim, from April to December, when interim
committees and subcommittees meet regularly to hear from

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 experts on a wide range of issues that affect the state, review
2 legislation for endorsement and discuss policy issues of
3 importance to the people of the state; and

4 WHEREAS, interim committee meetings are not subject to the
5 provisions of the Open Meetings Act; and

6 WHEREAS, the adoption of a policy to adopt the provisions
7 of Section 10-15-2 NMSA 1978 of the Open Meetings Act would
8 increase public access to information regarding the work of
9 elected representatives and contribute to a more informed
10 electorate;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
13 requested to implement a policy to adopt and to require all
14 interim committees created by or appointed by the New Mexico
15 legislative council to adopt all requirements of the Open
16 Meetings Act that apply to the state legislature pursuant to
17 Section 10-15-2 NMSA 1978; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
20 council and the director of the legislative council service.

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