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SENATE MEMORIAL 10

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Harold Pope

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DESIGN A PILOT PROJECT
TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC, SAFETY AND GRID IMPACTS OF
INSTALLING PORTABLE SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES IN LOW-INCOME
HOUSEHOLDS.

WHEREAS, the Energy Transition Act established New Mexico
as a national leader in clean energy, and the renewable energy
portfolio standard requires the energy portfolio of an electric
public utility to be composed of fifty percent renewable energy
by 2030 and eighty percent by 2040 and to achieve one hundred
percent carbon neutrality by 2045; and

WHEREAS, despite this progress, many low-income New Mexico
residents continue to face significant energy insecurity, with
many households below the federal poverty line spending sixteen
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1 to thirty percent of their income on energy costs, compared to
2 the state average of just three percent; and

3 WHEREAS, traditional rooftop solar installations remain
4 inaccessible to the majority of Americans, including renters,
5 apartment dwellers and households that cannot afford the high
6 upfront investment or do not qualify for traditional financing;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, plug-in or balcony solar systems, which are
9 small-scale, portable solar generation devices that plug
10 directly into a standard wall outlet, offer a potential
11 solution to bridge this gap by eliminating soft costs of
12 rooftop installation companies, such as marketing, installation
13 labor, permitting, overhead and profit, which comprise fifty to
14 sixty-five percent of the costs of traditional rooftop arrays;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, a controlled pilot project is a supportive step
17 to gather real-world data in New Mexico on the grid interaction
18 and economic benefit of portable solar generation devices in
19 preparation for wider legislative or regulatory frameworks
20 being established;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
22 OF NEW MEXICO that the energy, minerals and natural resources
23 department be requested to convene a working group composed of
24 one or more electric utilities or electric service providers
25 operating within or serving the state and one or more nonprofit

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1 or mission-driven organizations that demonstrate experience in
2 equitable clean energy deployment, community-based engagement
3 with low-income households and the development or
4 implementation to design a portable solar pilot project; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and
6 natural resources department be requested to select nonprofit
7 or mission-driven organizations to participate in the working
8 group that demonstrate a commitment to serving renters and low-
9 income households, the capacity to conduct participant
10 education and outreach and the technical ability to support
11 safe installation, monitoring and evaluation of portable solar
12 generation devices; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
14 to design a portable solar pilot project that allows for the
15 installation of portable solar generation devices on the
16 rooftops or balconies of between five and ten low-income
17 households within the service territories of participating
18 electric public utilities, including where a generation and
19 transmission cooperative coordinates or supports implementation
20 in partnership with its member utilities, and the primary
21 objectives of the project be to:

22 A. quantify the direct economic benefits to
23 participants, specifically analyzing the monthly reduction in
24 energy costs for low-income households; and

25 B. assess the impact of these distributed micro-

1 generators on participating utilities' local distribution to
2 inform future legislation; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
4 to present its findings and recommendations to the interim
5 legislative committee dealing with energy and natural resources
6 by November 1, 2026; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
9 resources.

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