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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 37

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1996

INTRODUCED BY

ELIZABETH T. STEFANICS

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION NOT TO DISCLOSE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS ON DRIVER'S LICENSES AND INSTRUCTION PERMITS.

WHEREAS, social security numbers are currently printed on motor vehicle driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses and instruction permits; and

WHEREAS, social security numbers can be used to obtain credit in the form of cash, goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the ready availability of a social security number on a driver's license and instruction permit increases the opportunity for fraudulent use of credit by affording unscrupulous persons access to information used to verify identity for credit purposes; and

WHEREAS, social security numbers are not required by law to appear on driver's licenses and instruction permits; and

Underscored material = new
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1 WHEREAS, there are reports of consumer fraud occurring in
2 New Mexico based on improper use of a consumer's social security
3 number obtained from normal review of a consumer's driver's
4 license for check cashing purposes; and

5 WHEREAS, a number of other states have reportedly changed
6 their practice and now delete social security numbers from
7 driver's licenses precisely because of consumer fraud problems;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the motor vehicle division of the department of
10 taxation and revenue apparently has the authority under current
11 law to change by regulation the current practice and not
12 disclose social security numbers on driver's licenses and
13 instruction permits; and

14 WHEREAS, prohibiting the disclosure of social security
15 numbers on driver's licenses and instruction permits does not
16 prohibit the motor vehicle division from requesting and
17 maintaining records of social security numbers for
18 administrative and law enforcement purposes or from
19 incorporating social security numbers in driver's licenses and
20 instruction permits in a magnetic or other coded form that is
21 not readable by the general public;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the motor vehicle division of the
24 taxation and revenue department be requested not to disclose
25 social security numbers on driver's licenses, commercial

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1 driver's licenses and instruction permits; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of taxation and
4 revenue and the director of the motor vehicle division.

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