

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 56

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LOTTERY AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FOR A
STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF LEGALIZED GAMBLING ON TEENS IN NEW
MEXICO.

WHEREAS, in recent years the state has legalized a state-
run lottery, Indian casinos and slot machine gambling in
specified locations in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, anecdotal evidence is abundant that adolescents
from twelve to eighteen years old in New Mexico are gambling
in large numbers; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 the department of health released a
study surveying gambling behavior in New Mexico and cataloging
damage done to adults who gamble at casinos and other gambling
venues in New Mexico, but did not provide any data or
conclusions on the impact of gambling on teens; and

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = del ete

1 WHEREAS, recent studies of the impact of expanded
2 gambling on teens that were released in 1998, and that were
3 conducted at Harvard medical school and at Louisiana state
4 university, show that where casino, lottery and other forms of
5 gambling are made legal for adults, a very high percentage of
6 teens gamble illegally and that between twelve to fifteen
7 percent of the teens develop gambling problems; and

8 WHEREAS, the New Mexico lottery authority is required by
9 law to set aside up to two percent of gross annual revenues
10 from the New Mexico state lottery in a reserve fund for
11 various purposes, including compulsive gambling
12 rehabilitation; and

13 WHEREAS, a study of the effect of legalized gambling on
14 teens in New Mexico would be an excellent and appropriate use
15 of at least one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars
16 (\$125,000) of the money that the New Mexico lottery authority
17 is required to set aside for such purposes;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the board of directors of the New
20 Mexico lottery authority be requested to fund and contract
21 with the department of health or other appropriate agency or
22 person to conduct a study of the effect of all forms of
23 legalized gambling on teens in New Mexico and report its
24 findings to the second session of the forty-fourth
25 legislature; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study:

2 A. determine the percentage of adolescents from
3 twelve to twenty-one years old that are gambling in New
4 Mexico, the forms of gambling used most frequently, the
5 demographics of the teens who gamble and the percentage of
6 teens that would be considered serious problem gamblers using
7 measures in the 1996 department of health study;

8 B. examine various factors that may contribute to
9 or promote teen gambling, such as family influences and the
10 effect that government sponsorship of gambling has on
11 legitimizing gambling in the minds of young people;

12 C. determine what percentage of teens resort to
13 illegal means to raise money to support their gambling habit
14 and what other dangerous and destructive behaviors are
15 promoted by their gambling problems; and

16 D. recommend remedies for addressing the problems
17 related to teen gambling; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the board of directors of the New Mexico
20 lottery authority and to the secretary of health.