

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 64

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON CONCERNS OF THE
HANDICAPPED CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY "VISITABILITY"
ISSUES IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOMES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, simple things like narrow doors, porch steps
and door thresholds can be insurmountable barriers for some
people with impaired mobility; and

WHEREAS, due to these barriers, children and adults with
disabilities are isolated because they cannot visit the homes
of friends, classmates, relatives and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, these types of barriers prevent people from
living at home as they become elderly or infirm or while
recuperating from an injury or illness; and

WHEREAS, because people are living longer, a greater
percentage of the population is over sixty-five and the need
for suitable housing is increasing; and

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1 WHEREAS, certain basic construction features, such as
2 wider doors, zero-stop thresholds and modified bathrooms, add
3 very little cost, yet make new homes "visitable" and
4 substantially more livable for persons who are aging, injured
5 or disabled;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor's committee on concerns
8 of the handicapped be requested to convene a task force
9 composed of representatives from the disabled community; the
10 residential building and manufactured housing industries,
11 including builders, developers, architects and manufactured
12 housing sellers; planning and zoning officials; and other
13 interested parties; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor's committee on
15 concerns of the handicapped study all aspects of the
16 "visitability" issues in new home construction, including
17 cost, need and alternatives; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor's committee on
19 concerns of the handicapped report its findings to the
20 legislative finance committee no later than October 30, 2000;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the governor's committee on concerns of the
24 handicapped, the superintendent of regulation and licensing
25 and the legislative finance committee.