

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 76

2 **46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Richard C. Martinez

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY
12 ON DEVELOPING A STATE DISABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR NON-
13 WORK-RELATED ILLNESS OR INJURY.

14
15 WHEREAS, most employees are covered for work-related
16 illnesses or injuries through workers' compensation; and

17 WHEREAS, employees may find themselves without income or
18 other resources due to non-work-related illnesses or injuries;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, employees who find themselves temporarily without
21 paychecks run the risk of losing their homes or vehicles or
22 having to file for bankruptcy; and

23 WHEREAS, employees are often unable to receive other
24 assistance because of their previous income, current assets or
25 household income; and

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1 WHEREAS, employees may suffer non-work-related illnesses
2 or injuries and only be temporarily out of work but may still
3 be without income or other resources; and

4 WHEREAS, few states have a state disability insurance
5 program for non-work-related illnesses or injuries; and

6 WHEREAS, the pooling of employee contributions to a state
7 disability insurance program would provide the necessary
8 funding without a tax increase or use of general fund dollars;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, a state disability insurance program may provide
11 an additional safety net to prevent a family's financial
12 collapse;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the labor department be requested to
15 conduct a feasibility study on the creation of a state
16 disability insurance program for non-work-related illnesses or
17 injuries sustained by employees; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the labor department present
19 its findings and recommendations to the legislative finance
20 committee and the legislative health and human services
21 committee during their October 2004 meetings and that two
22 copies of their written findings and recommendations be
23 provided to the legislative council service library; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the labor department.

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