

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE AN
3 INTERIM VETERANS' AFFAIRS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

4
5 WHEREAS, there are approximately two hundred thousand
6 veterans of the United States armed forces and the New Mexico
7 national guard who reside in this state; and

8 WHEREAS, veterans' affairs is a key policy issue for the
9 legislature; and

10 WHEREAS, more than seventy bills related to military and
11 veterans' issues were introduced in the first session of the
12 forty-eighth legislature; and

13 WHEREAS, more than twenty bills related to military and
14 veterans' issues have been introduced in the second session
15 of the forty-eighth legislature; and

16 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes an overdue need to
17 focus on veterans' affairs; and

18 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes a responsibility to
19 coordinate legislative initiatives related to veterans'
20 affairs;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council
23 be requested to create an interim veterans' affairs oversight
24 committee to work with the veterans' services department, the
25 department of military affairs and related agencies to:

1 A. review the functions of state agencies and
2 tribal entities involved in providing services to veterans to
3 determine if the current division of responsibilities for
4 veterans' affairs among state agencies and tribal entities
5 can be improved for greater efficiency;

6 B. review state statutes related to veterans' and
7 military affairs for consistency and potential conflict;

8 C. review the needs of veterans and the services
9 provided by federal, state and tribal governments to
10 determine if veterans' needs are being appropriately met; and

11 D. make recommendations for legislative
12 initiatives to address the findings of the committee; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the veterans' affairs
14 oversight committee develop recommendations by
15 November 30, 2008 to assist the veterans' services department
16 in formulating legislative proposals necessary to implement
17 its recommendations; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services, the
20 adjutant general of the department of military affairs and the
21 co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative council. _____

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