

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John T. L. Grubescic

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPOINT A
12 COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING AN INDEPENDENT,
13 BIPARTISAN REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.

14
15 WHEREAS, achieving proper political representation of New
16 Mexico communities and minority groups fosters a healthy
17 political environment in races for elective office; and

18 WHEREAS, competition in the political process helps
19 guarantee that elected officials will represent the full
20 diversity of New Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, using a fair and open process to redraw New
22 Mexico's political boundaries would reinvigorate the connection
23 between elected officials and the residents of New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, broad citizen participation in the redistricting
25 process will produce more accountability in government,

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1 strengthen public confidence in government and improve the
2 quality of public policy;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
5 requested to establish a committee, with proportional
6 representation of majority and minority parties and of the
7 house and senate, to study the feasibility of creating an
8 independent, bipartisan redistricting commission to compose
9 district plans for public education commission, public
10 regulation commission, legislative and congressional races that
11 are representative of New Mexico's population; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include the
13 following:

14 A. a review of independent, bipartisan
15 redistricting commissions created by other states;

16 B. methods for creating a balanced redistricting
17 commission that is representative of the geographical,
18 political, racial, ethnic, gender and age diversity of New
19 Mexico; and

20 C. procedures for conducting the work of the
21 redistricting commission that will ensure public participation
22 and transparency of the redistricting process; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report the
24 findings of its study, including recommendations for proposed
25 legislation, to the legislature no later than December 1, 2008;

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1 and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
4 council.

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