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SENATE MEMORIAL 23

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

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes an overdue need to

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1 focus on veterans' affairs; and

2 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes a responsibility to  
3 coordinate legislative initiatives related to veterans'  
4 affairs;

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

10 A. review the functions of state agencies and  
11 tribal entities involved in providing services to veterans to  
12 determine if the current division of responsibilities for  
13 veterans' affairs among state agencies and tribal entities can  
14 be improved for greater efficiency;

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

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

20 D. make recommendations for legislative initiatives  
21 to address the findings of the committee; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the veterans' affairs  
23 oversight committee develop recommendations by November 30,  
24 2008 to assist the veterans' services department in formulating  
25 legislative proposals necessary to implement its

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recommendations; and

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