

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 74

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE
STUDY OF THE ANNUAL ECONOMIC AND HUMAN COST OF ALCOHOL USE IN
NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, each day lives are lost in New Mexico as a direct
or indirect result of alcohol consumption; and

WHEREAS, according to the national institute on alcohol
abuse and alcoholism, alcohol abuse and its related problems
cost society many billions of dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, a recent study conducted by the Marin institute
in California concluded that one person dies every hour due to
alcohol use in California; and

WHEREAS, this study also concluded that the total economic
cost of alcohol abuse in California is one thousand dollars
(\$1,000) per resident per year, or thirty-eight billion four

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1 hundred million dollars (\$38,400,000,000) annually; and

2 WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by ECONorthwest,
3 titled *The Economic Costs of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Oregon*
4 *in 2006*, the total direct cost attributed to alcohol abuse in
5 Oregon was estimated at three billion two hundred forty-four
6 million dollars (\$3,244,000,000), or eight times the amount
7 collected in tax revenues for the sale of alcohol in that year;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the economic cost associated with alcohol use in
10 Minnesota was estimated at four billion nine hundred million
11 dollars (\$4,900,000,000) in 2001, an amount that was nineteen
12 times greater than the tax revenues collected from alcohol
13 sales; and

14 WHEREAS, no similar comprehensive study has been conducted
15 in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, such a study would be beneficial for the purpose
17 of identifying not only the economic, but the human cost of
18 alcohol abuse in New Mexico;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
21 to conduct a comprehensive study of the annual economic and
22 human cost of alcohol use in New Mexico; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this initial study encompass
24 the two-year time period of January 1, 2005 through December
25 31, 2007, establishing a baseline of data, and that follow-up

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1 studies be conducted annually thereafter; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study address the direct
3 and indirect economic costs to New Mexico of alcohol use and
4 abuse, including at a minimum the number of lives lost due to
5 alcohol use; the number of incidents attributable to alcohol
6 use; crimes associated with alcohol use; property damage
7 attributable to alcohol use; costs associated with illness or
8 injury caused by alcohol use; pain, suffering and quality-of-
9 life issues related to alcohol abuse; and the cost incurred by
10 state government as a result of alcohol use or abuse in the
11 state; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the study be
13 made public and be presented to the interim legislative health
14 and human services committee by November 1, 2009, and annually
15 thereafter; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the department of health.