

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 41

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Richard C. Martinez

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
12 DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A LOW-INCOME ENERGY  
13 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

14  
15 WHEREAS, the rising costs of energy are a major  
16 contributor to the severe economic hardship experienced by New  
17 Mexico's low-income families; and

18 WHEREAS, the over sixty thousand annual participants in  
19 the low income home energy assistance program receive help with  
20 heating and cooling costs but little to no energy efficiency  
21 assistance; and

22 WHEREAS, according to the Lutheran advocacy ministry,  
23 close to eighteen percent of all New Mexicans live in poverty,  
24 which is defined as seventeen thousand six hundred dollars  
25 (\$17,600) or less per year for a family of three; and

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1           WHEREAS, over thirty-one percent of New Mexico's  
2 households are very low- and extremely low-income households;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, most low-income homes are not energy efficient  
5 and need some form of substantive energy efficiency  
6 improvements in order to keep monthly energy costs manageable;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, the New Mexico mortgage finance authority's  
9 energy smart program provides assistance to low-income  
10 homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes; and

11           WHEREAS, the energy smart program is very effective at  
12 reducing low-income families' home energy usage, thereby  
13 reducing monthly energy utility bills; and

14           WHEREAS, the Efficient Use of Energy Act contains a  
15 specific finding that energy efficiency programs, in  
16 conjunction with weatherization programs targeted to  
17 economically disadvantaged families, will help reduce the  
18 burden of utility costs on low-income customers; and

19           WHEREAS, there is currently no single entity coordinating  
20 all of the various low-income energy assistance efforts  
21 occurring in the state;

22           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy, minerals and natural  
24 resources department be requested to establish and administer a  
25 low-income energy advisory committee; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee assist in  
2 developing guidelines for the coordination and implementation  
3 of all low-income energy assistance and efficiency efforts in  
4 the state; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee consist of  
6 representatives from utility companies, rural electric  
7 cooperatives, nonprofit organizations with an interest in  
8 energy efficiency, community advocates of the environment and  
9 clean energy, the New Mexico mortgage finance authority, the  
10 human services department, the public regulation commission and  
11 other appropriate members as determined by the energy, minerals  
12 and natural resources department; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee act in an  
14 advisory capacity in making recommendations to the governor,  
15 the public regulation commission and the legislature on low-  
16 income energy assistance funding needs and program  
17 implementation; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of energy,  
19 minerals and natural resources and the chair of the committee  
20 report to the appropriate interim legislative committee and the  
21 public regulation commission by November 1, 2009 and each year  
22 thereafter; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
25 resources and the chair of the public regulation commission.

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