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HOUSE MEMORIAL 6

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Nathan P. Cote

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY TO DEVELOP A COURSE ON
ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's public officials hold positions of
trust and are expected to act in the best interests of the
state; and

WHEREAS, what is considered to be acceptable behavior in
the private sector may not be acceptable behavior in the public
sector; and

WHEREAS, public officials need to be prepared to make
decisions that are in the best interests of the public; and

WHEREAS, laws may define what is unacceptable and illegal,
but they do not describe all situations or conditions that
people in positions of trust need to know in order to make
ethical decisions that best reflect the public trust that is

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1 vested in them; and

2 WHEREAS, requiring continuing education and orientation is
3 a preventive approach that may prevent elected officers and
4 others who hold positions of public trust from unknowingly
5 making decisions that violate laws, regulations or guidelines
6 or that otherwise may not be in the best interests of the
7 public; and

8 WHEREAS, some education and training on ethics for public
9 officers and employees is currently required by the
10 Governmental Conduct Act and further training is required by
11 ethics commission legislation being considered by the second
12 session of the forty-ninth legislature; and

13 WHEREAS, requiring ongoing education and orientation on
14 the nature of public service and ethical behavior in the public
15 sector well serves both New Mexico's public officials and the
16 public at large; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico's universities have extensive
18 resources and numerous experts who are well-acquainted with the
19 interplay of law, morality, ethics, power and politics;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that New Mexico
22 state university be requested to develop a model course on
23 ethics for public officials and make recommendations on how the
24 course can be made available to public officials; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this ethics course be made

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1 available to the state's public officials and become part of
2 their orientation training; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the president of New Mexico state university.

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