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HOUSE MEMORIAL 15

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

INTRODUCED BY

William "Bill" R. Rehm

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AN UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION  
TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE CURRENT  
PROGRAM, INCLUDING COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS, SHARED WORK  
PLANS AND INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, AMONG OTHERS.

WHEREAS, the idea for an unemployment compensation program  
began in Wisconsin in 1932, during the depths of the great  
depression, and the federal government followed suit with the  
Social Security Act of 1935, which encouraged the states to  
adopt unemployment insurance plans; and

WHEREAS, currently, all states participate in the federal-  
state program, which is financed through federal and state  
employer payroll taxes; and

WHEREAS, with the recent economic downturn, states are  
struggling to maintain their unemployment insurance funds, and

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1 many have had to request loans from the federal government,  
2 which must be repaid with interest, a difficult burden in the  
3 face of declining unemployment insurance revenue and increasing  
4 need; and

5 WHEREAS, given the expectation of a slow recovery from  
6 what is being called "the great recession", it is vital that  
7 New Mexico policymakers find ways to improve the unemployment  
8 compensation program in a way that benefits both employers and  
9 employees;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be  
12 requested to appoint an ad hoc unemployment compensation task  
13 force to consider options for improving the unemployment  
14 compensation program and the viability of the unemployment  
15 compensation fund; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership  
17 include representatives of business and labor as well as other  
18 interested persons and that the two major political parties be  
19 equally represented in the membership; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study  
21 innovations in place in other states as well as ideas set forth  
22 by state and federal policymakers, labor economists and other  
23 researchers, including:

- 24 A. individual savings accounts for workers;  
25 B. shared work options;

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