

HOUSE MEMORIAL 36

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

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Little

A MEMORIAL

DIRECTING THE HOUSE CHIEF CLERK TO INVESTIGATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THE CHAMBER'S TIME AND TO OPERATE AT LESS COST TO THE TAXPAYER.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature is limited by the constitution of New Mexico to meeting for only sixty days in odd-numbered years and thirty days in even-numbered years; and

WHEREAS, that limitation dictates that the legislature operate as efficiently and effectively as possible while it is in session; and

WHEREAS, the house of representatives has taken some initial steps to be more efficient and effective by allowing legislation to be filed before the beginning of any regular session and by allowing certain committees to begin hearings on state agency budgets before thirty-day sessions begin; and

.188727.2

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1           WHEREAS, prior to the second session of the fiftieth  
2 legislature, more than five dozen pieces of legislation,  
3 including fifty-four bills and four proposed constitutional  
4 amendments, were prefiled in the house of representatives; and

5           WHEREAS, holding committee hearings on prefiled  
6 legislation during the first several days of each regular  
7 session may reduce the number of late-night committee hearings  
8 and floor sessions later in the session and allow for the  
9 consideration of many additional pieces of worthy legislation;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, each regular session of the legislature costs  
12 taxpayers more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) a  
13 day; and

14           WHEREAS, there are many pressing issues facing the people  
15 of New Mexico that deserve the full attention of the  
16 legislature; and

17           WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the members of the New  
18 Mexico house of representatives to work diligently for the  
19 people of the state within its limited time, to identify  
20 opportunities for cost savings and increased productivity and  
21 to provide adequate time to address legislation that will  
22 better the condition of New Mexico and its residents;

23           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the chief clerk  
25 of the house of representatives, with the assistance of the

.188727.2

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 legislative council service, be directed to investigate  
2 opportunities for cost savings and to make better use of the  
3 house of representatives' limited time to consider legislation;  
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief clerk be directed,  
6 as part of the clerk's investigation, to review best practices  
7 from other legislatures and the private sector and to consult  
8 with at least one private-sector management consultant; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief clerk report the  
10 clerk's findings and recommendations, if any, to the first  
11 session of the fifty-first legislature.