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HOUSE MEMORIAL 63

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

INTRODUCED BY

Danice Picraux

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE PUBLIC
REGULATION COMMISSION TO COOPERATE IN DEVELOPMENT OF
LEGISLATION TO TRANSFER CONSUMER ADVOCATE STAFF FROM THE PUBLIC
REGULATION COMMISSION TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico attorney general has authority to
participate in utility rate cases on behalf of consumers and
ratepayers but has limited staff and resources; and

WHEREAS, the public regulation commission has advocacy
staff that represent the public interest in utility cases
before the commission, which includes but is not limited to the
interests of consumers and ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, the public regulation commission has separate
advisory staff that are able to consult with commissioners
without regard to limits on ex parte communications, but this

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1 function is primarily legal in nature and suffers from a lack
2 of sufficient technical professional positions;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
5 attorney general and the public regulation commission be
6 requested to cooperate in studying and developing legislation
7 to transfer professional and legal staff from the public
8 regulation commission to the attorney general to form a fully
9 staffed office of ratepayer advocacy and to transfer the
10 remaining utility advocacy staff within the commission to
11 enhance the advisory function; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico attorney
13 general and the public regulation commission report their
14 recommendations to the appropriate committee appointed by the
15 New Mexico legislative council by December 1, 2012 for
16 consideration by the next regular session of the legislature;
17 and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the New Mexico attorney general, the public
20 regulation commissioners and the co-chairs of the New Mexico
21 legislative council.