

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HIGHLIGHTING THE GROWING DRIVING- AND TRANSPORTATION-RELATED
3 DANGERS IN NEW MEXICO AND REQUESTING THE TAXATION AND REVENUE
4 DEPARTMENT TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
5 THE STATE TO IMPLEMENT A CONTINUING DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM.

6
7 WHEREAS, despite a twelve percent decrease in fatal
8 motor vehicle crashes from 2000 to 2009, New Mexico is still
9 twenty-two percent above the national average, according to
10 the department of transportation; and

11 WHEREAS, department of transportation records show that
12 in 2009, three and two-tenths percent of all crashes in the
13 state were related to alcohol, an issue around which there
14 are substantial education and awareness campaigns and
15 initiatives; and

16 WHEREAS, the six categories of driver error that caused
17 more crashes than alcohol are not addressed by education or
18 awareness campaigns or initiatives; and

19 WHEREAS, department of transportation 2009 records also
20 show that approximately one-fourth of New Mexico drivers were
21 under eighteen, while about three-fourths were over eighteen;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the United States census reveals an ongoing
24 trend of population growth in New Mexico; and

25 WHEREAS, that growth will congest traffic on streets and

1 highways and intensify the pressure on governments to move
2 traffic safely; and

3 WHEREAS, the census also reveals continuous growth in
4 the number of New Mexico drivers over the age of sixty-five;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, according to the national highway traffic
7 safety administration, New Mexico ranked fourth in the nation
8 in its 2000 through 2009 pedestrian fatality rate, only a
9 minor improvement from its previous ranking of first; and

10 WHEREAS, the league of American bicyclists recently
11 ranked New Mexico the forty-fifth state for
12 bicycle-friendliness; and

13 WHEREAS, increasingly, drivers are distracted, traffic
14 and automobile engineering attributes are changing and roads
15 are being used in alternative ways; and

16 WHEREAS, these factors increase the risks of danger on
17 and near roadways; and

18 WHEREAS, the state has made no effort to educate drivers
19 about these new risks or the best ways to avoid a collision;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the state also does not offer or require
22 education for alternative road users on safety or legal
23 obligations; and

24 WHEREAS, unlike in other states, New Mexico's driver
25 education curriculum and testing practices do not incorporate

1 the findings of a growing body of research on good driving
2 habits;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the taxation and revenue department
5 be requested to convene a committee to address these needs in
6 driver education and road safety; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee consist of
8 New Mexico resident and nonresident experts in traffic safety
9 and alternative road use, including pedestrian, bicycle and
10 motorcycle road use; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee also consist
12 of members from advocacy organizations active in the state,
13 including the Duke City wheelmen foundation and the
14 New Mexico motorcycle rights organization; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if possible, one or more
16 experts in visual perception and driver habits and one or
17 more experts in driver education curriculum and testing serve
18 on the committee; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee meet monthly
20 beginning in April 2013 to establish objectives for
21 implementing a continuing driver education program that
22 addresses the concerns expressed in this memorial; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its
24 recommendations to the legislative health and human services
25 committee in September 2013; and

