

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION OF THE TAXATION AND
3 REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO RESEARCH AND
4 REFINE BEST PRACTICES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE
5 ISSUANCE AND DENIAL OF NEW MEXICO DRIVER'S LICENSES AND STATE
6 IDENTIFICATION CARDS TO OLDER ADULTS.

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8 WHEREAS, by 2030, more than sixty million older adults
9 could be driving on the nation's roadways; and

10 WHEREAS, states have laws that restrict driver's
11 licenses for seniors or impose extra requirements, such as
12 vision or road tests, for getting a license renewed based
13 solely on advancing age; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico drivers age seventy-five and older
15 are generally required to renew their licenses at a local
16 office of the motor vehicle division of the taxation and
17 revenue department; and

18 WHEREAS, in addition to taking a basic vision test every
19 year, senior drivers may be asked to take a written knowledge
20 test and a road test as well; and

21 WHEREAS, drivers with medical conditions that might
22 interfere with driving, such as diabetes, heart ailments,
23 stroke or other conditions, must keep the motor vehicle
24 division updated on their medical status through reports
25 signed by their doctors; and

1 WHEREAS, the failure of a vision test or a negative
2 letter from a doctor may, and normally does, deny the
3 issuance of a New Mexico driver's license; and

4 WHEREAS, family decisions about a senior driver's
5 ability to drive, traffic citations and a questionable mental
6 health diagnosis may also affect denial of a driver's
7 license; and

8 WHEREAS, any denial forces a senior to present a
9 passport or birth certificate for traveling and other
10 purposes; and

11 WHEREAS, acquiring a birth certificate or passport may,
12 in some circumstances, present financial and logistical
13 hardship; and

14 WHEREAS, under the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, New
15 Mexico changed the documentation requirements for issuing
16 driver's licenses and non-driver identification cards, and
17 providing documentation may be problematic; and

18 WHEREAS, older drivers are generally considered safe
19 drivers, and more programs exist to improve their driving
20 skills; and

21 WHEREAS, a recent Pew charitable trust report states
22 that recent studies have shown that many of the restrictions
23 against older drivers are not as effective as once thought in
24 preventing traffic fatalities; and

25 WHEREAS, age-based restrictions on drivers may

1 discriminate against healthy seniors who reflect the changing
2 way that society defines "old";

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the motor
5 vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department be
6 requested to convene a working group to research and refine
7 best practices, policies and procedures concerning the
8 issuance and denial of New Mexico driver's licenses and state
9 identification cards to older adults; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group review
11 existing laws, practices, policies and procedures in other
12 states and countries and compare them to New Mexico; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
14 requested to review New Mexico laws, practices, policies and
15 procedures for possible discrimination toward older drivers;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the motor vehicle division
18 of the taxation and revenue department invite representatives
19 of the aging and long-term services department, the
20 department of health, the department of transportation, the
21 human services department, the department of public safety,
22 gerontology specialists, AARP New Mexico, the American civil
23 liberties union of New Mexico and members of the disabled and
24 senior populations that utilize state and municipal ride
25 services to participate in the working group; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group present
2 its findings and conclusions to the appropriate interim
3 legislative committee by October 1, 2019; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the director of the motor vehicle division of
6 the taxation and revenue department, the secretary of
7 transportation, the secretary of human services, the secretary
8 of public safety, the director of AARP New Mexico and the
9 president of the American civil liberties union of New Mexico.

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