

HOUSE FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE MEMORIAL 2

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
1996

RAYMOND G. SANCHEZ

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT A NONPARTISAN COMMISSION TO
REVIEW SOVEREIGNTY ISSUES AND CONCOMITANTLY INVESTIGATE AND
RECOMMEND A DIRECTION FOR GAMING FOR THE FUTURE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, various issues have arisen that raise questions
regarding the authority of the state to regulate the activities
of or impose taxes on tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, tribal gaming and other issues affecting tribal
and state sovereignty are issues of vital importance to all New
Mexicans, regardless of ethnic and cultural differences; and

WHEREAS, various governments and organizations have
indicated a need for additional revenue for economic development
and for assistance for their communities; and

WHEREAS, tribal gaming provides economic development for

1 Indian nations, tribes and pueblos, but is now in operation in
2 New Mexico without clear direction and regulation; and

3 WHEREAS, the potential for added revenue to New Mexico from
4 gaming could benefit the people of the state, but the economic,
5 fiscal, environmental and social impact of gaming on the state
6 has not been thoroughly researched or studied; and

7 WHEREAS, the debates over these issues have been
8 acrimonious and divisive, causing lasting damage to the
9 harmonious relations among different interests and governing
10 authorities, and this divisiveness is detrimental to the state's
11 welfare; and

12 WHEREAS, the citizens of New Mexico would like a clear
13 understanding of sovereignty and a resolution to the questions
14 involving gaming in New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, there are currently several gaming cases pending,
16 resulting in extensive economic expense; and

17 WHEREAS, the governor has supported gaming in a manner that
18 is unclear and without adequate public input on the issue of
19 gaming in New Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, because tribal sovereignty issues are often
21 misunderstood and the related impact of gaming, both Indian and
22 non-Indian, needs additional study, a nonpartisan commission
23 would assist in making all citizens of the state more cognizant
24 of the issues related to sovereignty;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be
2 requested to appoint a nonpartisan commission comprised of
3 legislators, Native Americans, representatives of organizations and
4 individuals involved in gaming, the racing industry, anti-gaming
5 participants and the public-at-large to review tribal sovereignty
6 issues and also to investigate and recommend a direction for gaming
7 in the future of New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor, in making his
9 appointments, ensure that all interests are adequately represented
10 and that there is a fair and equitable balance between the
11 competing pro-gaming and anti-gaming interests.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission prepare a report
13 to be submitted to the legislature no later than December 31, 1996;
14 and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the governor.

Underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete