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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 57

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

LINDA M LOPEZ

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF
BACKGROUND STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CABINET POSITIONS IN
OTHER STATES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Executive Reorganization Act all
cabinet secretaries in New Mexico are appointed by the governor
with the advice and consent of the senate, serve in the
executive cabinet and hold office at the pleasure of the
governor; and

WHEREAS, there are no minimum requirements or standards in
place in New Mexico regarding cabinet positions, with the
exception of the secretary of finance and administration
position, with the only requirement in statute being that "The
secretary shall be well versed in governmental finance"; and

WHEREAS, the governor appoints and the senate consents in

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1 our system of checks and balances, but as we just witnessed with
2 the senate declining the appointment of corrections secretary-
3 designate Dona Wilpolt, decisions to reject an appointee can
4 certainly be based on directly related job experience and
5 expertise;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative council service be
8 asked to conduct a study of other states' criteria in selecting
9 candidates for cabinet-level positions; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the director of the legislative council service
12 and the New Mexico legislative council.