

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 64

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE  
APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE TO STUDY THE  
IMPLICATIONS OF ADOPTING VARIOUS APPENDICES OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE.

WHEREAS, the public regulation commission is charged with  
adopting regulations for fire prevention and the safe use of  
public occupancies; and

WHEREAS, the regulations shall follow nationwide standards  
except in the area of life safety codes, which shall be  
compatible with national building codes; and

WHEREAS, the commission in the past has properly relied  
upon the provisions of the International Fire Code when  
adopting state regulations, but specifically has not adopted  
the provisions contained in the appendices to the International

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1 Fire Code, leaving those decisions to local authorities; and

2 WHEREAS, the provisions of Appendix B of the 2009  
3 International Fire Code contain burdensome requirements that,  
4 if adopted as state standards, could force communities to  
5 upgrade their water systems or building owners to install  
6 sprinkler systems, greatly increasing the cost of rural  
7 housing, public schools and other buildings; and

8 WHEREAS, other appendices of the International Fire Code,  
9 such as those governing fire hydrant locations, fire engine  
10 access roads, hazard categories, hazard rankings, hazardous  
11 materials management plans and emergency responder radio  
12 coverage, may contain requirements that are better resolved at  
13 the local level;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be  
16 requested to direct the appropriate interim committee of the  
17 legislature, in collaboration with the state fire marshal and  
18 the construction industries division of the regulation and  
19 licensing department, to study the implications of allowing  
20 local authorities the discretion of adopting selected  
21 appendices of the International Fire Code; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
24 council, the state fire marshal and the director of the  
25 construction industries division of the regulation and

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licensing department.