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HOUSE MEMORIAL 8

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Daymon Ely

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONVENE A
REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR
THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS FOLLOWING THE 2020 CENSUS.

WHEREAS, the 2001 and 2011 redistricting processes ended
with the courts drawing the districts and costing New Mexico
taxpayers an additional six million five hundred thousand
dollars (\$6,500,000) in court costs and attorney fees; and

WHEREAS, the court battles of the past two redistricting
processes seriously undermined the public's confidence in the
political process; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial to have meaningful public awareness
and input into the redistricting process; and

WHEREAS, twenty-one other states have either an
independent redistricting commission or procedures that

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1 increase the transparency and integrity of the redistricting
2 process; and

3 WHEREAS, the interim committee process provides an
4 opportunity to study this complex subject in detail while
5 including as many stakeholders as possible;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
8 legislative council be requested to convene an interim task
9 force to develop concrete recommendations to improve New
10 Mexico's redistricting process, including proposed rules and
11 guidelines; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reforms to be considered
13 include an independent redistricting commission; a temporary
14 advisory redistricting committee; statutory standards for
15 redistricting; guidelines for a future legislative
16 redistricting committee; strategies for authentic public input;
17 and other reforms that may arise during discussions; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
19 council consider the task force's recommendations in drafting
20 its 2021 guidelines for the development of state redistricting
21 plans and that the task force report its recommendations to the
22 appropriate interim committee and to the first session of the
23 fifty-fifth legislature; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
25 the following fifteen members: six legislative members,

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1 divided equally between the house of representatives and the
2 senate, who shall be appointed by the New Mexico legislative
3 council; six members of the public with knowledge of the
4 redistricting process, who shall be appointed by the New Mexico
5 legislative council; two members appointed by the governor; and
6 the secretary of state; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
9 council, the governor and the secretary of state.