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SENATE MEMORIAL 55

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Eric G. Griego

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
MAKE LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WOULD ALLOW FUSION VOTING
IN THE STATE.

WHEREAS, fusion voting allows a candidate for public
office to run as the nominee for more than one political party;
and

WHEREAS, fusion voting allows voters to cast a ballot for
the party that stands most strongly for their issues, and the
ability to demonstrate votes delivered for a specific issue
gives independent and minority party voters greater influence
with candidates in the major parties, especially when votes for
a minor party provide the margin of victory; and

WHEREAS, fusion voting was once widespread in the United
States, but as minor parties became successful due to fusion

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1 voting, state legislatures led by the major parties enacted
2 bans against fusion voting and today fusion voting remains
3 legal in only eight states; and

4 WHEREAS, fusion voting allows minor parties to have more
5 of a role in the political process and allows voters who belong
6 to minor parties to have more of a voice in the political
7 process, providing increased representation for all residents
8 in the state;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of state be requested to
11 convene a task force to make legislative recommendations that
12 would allow fusion voting in the state; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
14 representatives from major and minor political parties of the
15 state, common cause New Mexico, the county clerks' affiliate of
16 the New Mexico association of counties and the New Mexico
17 foundation for open government; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a final
19 report, with the recommendations for legislation to be
20 introduced in the first session of the fifty-first legislature,
21 to the appropriate interim committees by September 1, 2012; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of state.