

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 15

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM "BILL" R. REHM



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AN UNEMPLOYMENT
3 COMPENSATION TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE
4 CURRENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS,
5 SHARED WORK PLANS AND INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, AMONG
6 OTHERS.

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8 WHEREAS, the idea for an unemployment compensation
9 program began in Wisconsin in 1932, during the depths of the
10 great depression, and the federal government followed suit
11 with the Social Security Act of 1935, which encouraged the
12 states to adopt unemployment insurance plans; and

13 WHEREAS, currently, all states participate in the
14 federal-state program, which is financed through federal and
15 state employer payroll taxes; and

16 WHEREAS, with the recent economic downturn, states are
17 struggling to maintain their unemployment insurance funds, and
18 many have had to request loans from the federal government,
19 which must be repaid with interest, a difficult burden in the
20 face of declining unemployment insurance revenue and
21 increasing need; and

22 WHEREAS, given the expectation of a slow recovery from
23 what is being called "the great recession", it is vital that
24 New Mexico policymakers find ways to improve the unemployment
25 compensation program in a way that benefits both employers and

1 employees;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor
4 be requested to appoint an ad hoc unemployment compensation
5 task force to consider options for improving the unemployment
6 compensation program and the viability of the unemployment
7 compensation fund; and


8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership
9 include representatives of business and labor as well as other
10 interested persons and that the two major political parties be
11 equally represented in the membership; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study
13 innovations in place in other states as well as ideas set
14 forth by state and federal policymakers, labor economists and
15 other researchers, including:

- 16 A. individual savings accounts for workers;
17 B. shared work options;
18 C. job search waivers for entrepreneurial
19 activity; and
20 D. opportunities and requirements for recipients
21 to engage in community service work while receiving
22 unemployment compensation; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report to the
24 governor and appropriate legislative interim committees by
25 November 15, 2012; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the governor and the legislative council
3 service.
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ben Lujan".

BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen R. Arias".

STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES