

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 75, with certificate of correction

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTO "BOBBY" J. GONZALES

AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES





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House of Representatives
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FIFTIETH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2012

February 16, 2012

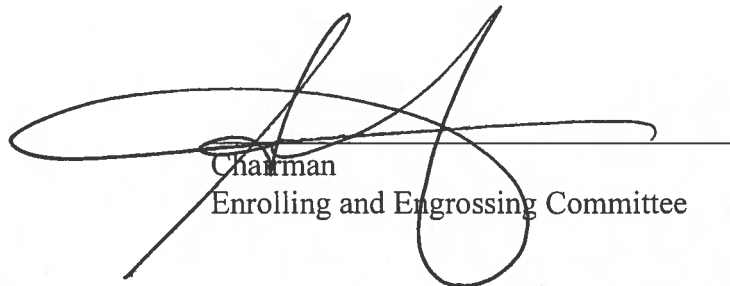
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

The following error was found in

HOUSE MEMORIAL 75

and has been corrected in enrolling and engrossing:

1. On page 2, lines 7 and 9 of the original bill, the letters "E." and "F." were replaced with "F." and "G." to conform with the text and appear on page 1, lines 23 and 25 of the enrolled and engrossed memorial.



Chairman
Enrolling and Engrossing Committee

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JUNE 21
2012

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING AND HONORING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES BEN LUJAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF NEW
4 MEXICO AND WISHING HIM VAYA CON DIOS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
5 THE NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATURE.

6
7 WHEREAS, the year 1975 was notable in many ways, for
8 example:

9 A. the yearly inflation rate was around nine
10 percent, causing President Gerald R. Ford to declare a
11 national recession;

12 B. the price of a barrel of oil was more than
13 thirteen dollars (\$13.00), and a gallon of gasoline cost
14 forty-four cents (\$.44);

15 C. long-distance telephone calls sounded scratchy
16 and were very expensive; there were no cordless phones; and
17 cell phones were in the same category as flying cars;

18 D. computers were giant machines at Los Alamos
19 national laboratory and Sandia national laboratories, and no
20 one owned a word processor;

21 E. the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Minnesota
22 Vikings 16-6 in Super Bowl IX;

23 F. Jimmy Hoffa disappeared, never to be seen
24 again; and

25 G. after having served as chair of the Santa Fe

1 county commission, thirty-nine-year-old Ben Lujan took his
2 seat in the New Mexico house of representatives as part of a
3 class of eighteen new solons;

4 WHEREAS, early on, the young legislator made his mark as
5 a member of the appropriations and finance committee and what
6 was then called the privileges and elections committee; and

7 WHEREAS, then-Representative Lujan held his first
8 leadership position during the 1977 legislative session when
9 he served as chair of the printing and supplies committee; and

10 WHEREAS, during the first "cowboy coalition", then-
11 Representative Lujan lost his chairmanship, but in 1983, the
12 house democratic caucus elected him majority whip, and, as
13 such, he never looked back; and

14 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan's leadership service as majority
15 whip from 1983 through 1998, majority floor leader from 1999
16 through 2000 and as speaker of the house of representatives
17 from 2001 through the centennial session of the legislature
18 places him among just a handful of legislators across the
19 country who have served in leadership positions continuously
20 for thirty years; and

21 WHEREAS, the significantly diverse range of talents and
22 experiences that each leadership position demands of its
23 holder has showcased Speaker Lujan's ability to understand,
24 learn and successfully master unique skills to perform each of
25 the positions, with a common thread of dedication to the

1 integrity and effectiveness of the house of representatives in
2 serving New Mexicans; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Lujan, Majority Whip Lujan,
4 Majority Floor Leader Lujan, Speaker Lujan has committed
5 himself to issues that have a dramatic impact on each New
6 Mexican and allow the citizen legislature to be a clear way to
7 help make daily life better for the people he serves; and

8 WHEREAS, during his long service in the house of
9 representatives, Speaker Lujan fought tirelessly to protect
10 homeowners from suddenly escalating property taxes; to boost
11 the minimum wage for New Mexicans; to attract new businesses
12 with job training programs and tax incentives; to improve New
13 Mexico roads, highways, public buildings and other
14 infrastructure; and to ensure that New Mexico's water supply
15 remains plentiful and clean; and

16 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan also found time to pose the
17 official state question, "Red or Green?", although it took him
18 eight years and all of his political skill to forge the
19 consummate compromise and to answer the question with
20 "Christmas"; and

21 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan championed legislative reform
22 efforts, including implementation of a new member orientation,
23 which, while accepted as routine today, was not offered to the
24 newly elected Ben Lujan and his peers, as the veteran
25 legislators sought to maintain their power and control; and

1 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan knows the importance of providing
2 excellent constituent services and has helped countless
3 residents of his northern New Mexico district, as well as
4 other New Mexicans, wade through the bureaucracy of state
5 government; and

6 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan repeatedly demonstrates an
7 unmatched stamina during marathon floor sessions, committee
8 hearings and meetings during the legislative sessions and an
9 unequalled ability to gauge the fate of key legislation, as
10 well as work to bring it to the house in a form that can
11 garner majority support; and

12 WHEREAS, his understanding of the role in making party
13 leadership successful is reflected in his unfailing loyalty to
14 those who have contributed so significantly to that success
15 and his own appreciation of those who have supported his
16 leadership; and

17 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan's tenacity and no-nonsense
18 demeanor in the legislative arena often lead casual observers
19 to mistakenly believe that his legislative efforts are
20 paramount in his life, while the few who know him better
21 understand that his deep affection for Carmen, his wife and
22 life-long partner, their children and their grandchildren have
23 been, are and will forever be foremost in his head and heart;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, in 2012, legislators have the advantage of

1 instant access and communication through laptops, cell phones
2 and other marvels of modern technology; and

3 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan's leadership has never relied upon
4 the trappings of office but upon determination, advocacy on
5 behalf of his constituents and the causes in which he believes
6 and loyalty to the legislative institution;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that constant and
9 continuing gratitude be expressed to Ben Lujan, the man, the
10 friend, the neighbor and the family man who has been willing
11 to serve, and to Speaker Ben Lujan, the leader, the
12 inspiration, the embodiment of success in his thirty years of
13 leadership; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives
15 of the state of New Mexico join with the people of New Mexico
16 in showing support of his continuing efforts and wish Speaker
17 Ben Lujan the same kind of success in the future that he has
18 shared with us over these past thirty-seven years.

Ben Lujan

BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Stephen R. Arias

STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES