

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, Second Session

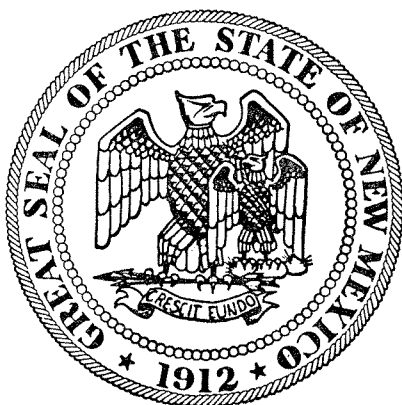
LAWS 2008

CHAPTER _____

SENATE MEMORIAL 16, as amended

Introduced by

SENATOR RICHARD C. MARTINEZ



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE
3 APPROPRIATE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO STUDY POSSIBLE
4 REGULATION OF THE PROPANE GAS INDUSTRY BY THE PUBLIC
5 REGULATION COMMISSION.

6
7 WHEREAS, rising fuel costs across the country are of
8 increasing concern to the public, especially low-income
9 persons in rural areas of New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, many low-income persons in the rural areas
11 depend on propane gas as an energy source to heat their homes
12 in the winter; and

13 WHEREAS, it is necessary that those New Mexicans who are
14 most vulnerable to the high costs of fuel be protected; and

15 WHEREAS, the propane gas industry and the rates charged
16 for propane gas services are not currently regulated by the
17 public regulation commission; and

18 WHEREAS, including the propane gas industry under the
19 Public Utility Act would provide the public regulation
20 commission with authority over entities manufacturing,
21 storing, selling, or distributing propane gas in enclosed
22 containers or tank trucks for use by consumers, except
23 consumers who receive their supply through any pipeline
24 system operating under municipal authority; and

25 WHEREAS, oversight of the propane gas industry by the

1 public regulation commission would ensure that New Mexicans,
2 particularly low-income New Mexicans, are paying fair prices
3 for propane gas;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council
6 be requested to direct the appropriate interim legislative
7 committee to study the propane gas industry; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a review
9 of the following:

10 A. the relationship between the low income home
11 energy assistance program and the price of propane;

12 B. current regulation of propane installations by
13 the construction industries division of the regulation and
14 licensing department; and

15 C. liability issues associated with the propane
16 industry; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate interim
18 legislative committee be directed to hold a hearing on the
19 issue by November 1, 2008; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and the
22 chair of the public regulation commission. _____

s/Diane D. Denish
Diane D. Denish, President
Senate

s/Lenore M. Naranjo
Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
Senate

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JAN 17 2001
SENATE