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Editorials

PRC Changes Overdue

Through all our embarrassment, annoyance and disgust brought about by Jerome Block, formerly our representative on the Public Regulation Commission, it appears he created an atmosphere of change that some proactive legislators are hoping will help push some corrective legislation this session.

It's staggering to realize that it took behavior such as Block's to bring about this change of attitude by the Commission but his actions are in the past, and they had the right effect on his fellow Commissioners.

Our friends at Think New Mexico supplied us with a list of this legislation proposed to improve accountability, strengthen requirements for Commissioners and make the whole operation work more for the consumer, than for the Commissioners.

House Joint Resolution 11 would make the requirements for the \$90,000 a year job a little tougher. Right now you have to be 18, a New Mexico resident and have no felony convictions. That's just sad. HJR11 would require commissioners have either a college degree or at least five years of relevant professional experience.

If House Joint Resolution 16 were passed, reporting and registration of corporations would move from the PRC to the Secretary of State's office. In 35 other states, this is the procedure followed.

Lastly, House Joint Resolution 17 would remove the PRC's authority over the insurance industry and change the way superintendents of insurance are selected. This has been a longtime thorn in New Mexican's sides. We can't seem to pick an honest insurance superintendent with the ability to do the job sans business interference. There's always some donation requirement or conflict of interest that gets them in trouble to the point of being fired or being allowed to resign. It's always to spend more time with their family.

These are three good pieces of legislation that deserve to be argued and hopefully passed. Block's behavior was icing on a cake baked with marijuana possession, assault, poor hires and sexual harassment. It's ironic but if we can get some of these changes instituted, we owe a big thanks to Block.