

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 117

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 ENCOURAGING STATE AGENCIES TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO MAKE IT A
12 FELONY TO ATTACK OR INJURE A CERTIFIED NEW MEXICO STATE
13 SECURITY GUARD AND RECOGNIZING PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS AS TRUE
14 FIRST RESPONDERS.

15
16 WHEREAS, the private security guard industry in New Mexico
17 is one of the fastest-growing industries in the state; and

18 WHEREAS, it is imperative that public officials become
19 aware of the multitude of issues affecting New Mexico's private
20 security guard industry; and

21 WHEREAS, the private security guard industry is part of
22 the invisible infrastructure that surrounds people and plays a
23 quiet, yet vital, role daily in the lives of New Mexicans; and

24 WHEREAS, private security guards check identification and
25 scan personal belongings at many state facilities to protect

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1 people and their assets; and

2 WHEREAS, private security guards are found in many places,
3 including department stores, shopping centers, hospitals, bus
4 terminals, state buildings, federal buildings, museums,
5 factories, laboratories, movie sets, film locations, state
6 universities, bars and nightclubs and highly sensitive areas
7 protecting national secrets, such as Los Alamos national
8 laboratory; and

9 WHEREAS, private security guards protect financial
10 transactions at banks and automatic teller machines; and

11 WHEREAS, private security guard services provided in New
12 Mexico are as dangerous and hazardous to the safety and
13 security of private security guards as they are to true first
14 responders; and

15 WHEREAS, in state law, it is a third degree felony to
16 commit aggravated assault upon a peace officer; and

17 WHEREAS, the private security guard industry in New Mexico
18 is just as hazardous an occupation as that of a correctional
19 officer; and

20 WHEREAS, as of 2009, security guards had suffered sixty-
21 three fatal workplace injuries and an estimated eight thousand
22 nine hundred twenty nonfatal workplace injuries that required
23 at least one day away from work, according to the bureau of
24 labor statistics of the United States department of labor; and

25 WHEREAS, a bureau of labor statistics report states that

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1 the rate of fatal workplace injuries to security guards was
2 more than twice that of workers in general; and

3 WHEREAS, security guards play a pivotal role in the safety
4 and security of many of New Mexico's governmental offices as
5 well as a key role in protecting federal institutions;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
7 OF NEW MEXICO that state agencies be encouraged to support
8 legislation to make it a felony to attack or injure a certified
9 New Mexico state security guard; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that private security guards be
11 recognized as true first responders, affording them the
12 recognition they deserve in such an unpredictable, hostile and
13 sometimes fatal occupation; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the governor, the superintendent of regulation
16 and licensing, the president of the New Mexico professional
17 security association, the secretary of taxation and revenue,
18 the secretary of workforce solutions, the director of the film
19 division of the economic development department and the
20 secretary of public safety.

