

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES TO CONVENE
3 A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE COSTS, BENEFITS AND FEASIBILITY OF
4 TRANSITIONING DETENTION FACILITIES FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNTY
5 OPERATIONS TO A UNIFIED JAIL AND PRISON SYSTEM.

6
7 WHEREAS, there are twenty-seven county-operated adult
8 detention facilities in New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, the operational capacity of county-operated
10 adult detention facilities ranges from ten detainees and
11 inmates to two thousand three hundred thirty-six detainees
12 and inmates; and

13 WHEREAS, the average daily population of the
14 twenty-seven county-operated adult detention facilities
15 ranges from two to one thousand one hundred sixty detainees
16 and inmates; and

17 WHEREAS, detention facilities are complex operations
18 that require a high level of expertise and adequate numbers
19 of well-trained staff to function properly; and

20 WHEREAS, substantial time and resources are spent by
21 various governmental entities billing each other for the
22 costs of incarceration and addressing disputes regarding who
23 is responsible for paying those costs; and

24 WHEREAS, detainees and inmates are poorly served by a
25 system that does not have a way to effectively share medical

1 and behavioral health information; and

2 WHEREAS, the services and programming available in
3 county detention facilities vary greatly; and

4 WHEREAS, significant taxpayer dollars are wasted by
5 having twenty-seven independent facilities, each requiring
6 comprehensive medical and mental health services regardless
7 of size or capacity; and

8 WHEREAS, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode
9 Island and Vermont all have unified jail and prison systems,
10 and West Virginia has a single state authority that oversees
11 regional facilities; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico could benefit from the efficiencies
13 created by a unified system where records could be shared and
14 resources could be saved through economies of scale; and

15 WHEREAS, it is inefficient and wasteful to have numerous
16 independent governmental entities operating detention
17 facilities within the state;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico association of
20 counties be requested to convene a task force of stakeholders
21 to study the costs, benefits and feasibility of transitioning
22 the state to a unified jail and prison system; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
24 representatives from the New Mexico association of counties,
25 the corrections department and the administrative office of

1 the courts; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
3 findings to the appropriate interim legislative committee by
4 December 1, 2022; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial
6 be transmitted to the executive director of the New Mexico
7 association of counties, the director of the administrative
8 office of the courts and the secretary of corrections.=====

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