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HOUSE MEMORIAL

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF LAW TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY MODEL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING
CURRICULA FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO
IMPROVE THE CURRENT CURRICULUM AT THE NEW MEXICO LAW
ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY AND IMPROVE IN-SERVICE TRAINING
REQUIREMENTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

WHEREAS, trust between law enforcement agencies and the
people they protect and serve is essential in a democracy; and

WHEREAS, recent events have exposed rifts in the
relationships between police officers and the communities they
protect and serve; and

WHEREAS, recent events have shown that when police
officers do not engage in de-escalation techniques during an
investigation, they can fatally injure those individuals

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1 subject to investigation, causing unnecessary, tragic and
2 brutal deaths and further promoting distrust between New Mexico
3 law enforcement agencies and the communities they are sworn to
4 protect and serve; and

5 WHEREAS, advocacy groups representing the viewpoints of
6 communities that have historically had adversarial
7 relationships with law enforcement have a vital role to play in
8 the development of training curricula for law enforcement; and

9 WHEREAS, training on implicit bias, historical trauma and
10 other related topics has the potential to build trust and
11 legitimacy for law enforcement agencies and the communities
12 they serve, yet this training has not been a meaningful part of
13 the curriculum at the New Mexico law enforcement academy; and

14 WHEREAS, training on interactions with lesbian, gay,
15 bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning and intersex
16 individuals, known by the acronym "LGBTQI", including issues
17 such as determining gender identity for arrest placement, has
18 the potential to build trust and legitimacy for law enforcement
19 agencies and LGBTQI; and

20 WHEREAS, training to improve interactions between law
21 enforcement and minority communities and immigrant and non-
22 English speaking groups has the potential to build trust and
23 legitimacy for law enforcement agencies and Native American,
24 Latino and African American communities, yet this training has
25 not been a meaningful part of the curriculum at the New Mexico

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1 law enforcement academy; and

2 WHEREAS, training on the appropriate investigation and
3 response to interpersonal violence, including child abuse,
4 sexual violence and domestic violence, has the potential to
5 build trust and legitimacy for law enforcement agencies and
6 victims of those crimes; and

7 WHEREAS, training on the special needs of persons with
8 mental health challenges or physical challenges has the
9 potential to build trust and legitimacy for law enforcement
10 agencies with vulnerable persons and their families; and

11 WHEREAS, the curriculum at the New Mexico law enforcement
12 academy has not kept pace with the extensive body of research
13 on effective training techniques; and

14 WHEREAS, the legislature has the duty to enact a program
15 of basic law enforcement training and in-service training for
16 police officers that is appropriate and effective; and

17 WHEREAS, the following organizations can provide valuable
18 insight and experience in considering the curriculum at the New
19 Mexico law enforcement academy: a civil rights organization,
20 an organization representing criminal defendants, an
21 organization representing prosecutors, an organization
22 representing the African American community, an organization
23 representing the Native American community, an organization
24 representing the Hispanic community, an organization with
25 experience organizing political demonstrations, an organization

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1 representing the immigrant community, an organization
2 representing people with mental health challenges, an
3 organization representing people with physical disabilities, an
4 organization representing victims of domestic violence, an
5 organization representing victims of violent crimes and an
6 organization representing gay and transgender individuals; and

7 WHEREAS, references in this memorial to "police officer"
8 mean any commissioned employee of a law enforcement agency that
9 is part of or administered by the state or any political
10 subdivision of the state and includes any employee of a missile
11 range civilian police department who is a graduate of a
12 recognized certified regional law enforcement training facility
13 and who is currently certifiable by the New Mexico law
14 enforcement training academy, which employee is responsible for
15 the prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of the
16 penal or traffic or highway laws of this state. The term
17 specifically includes deputy sheriffs. Additionally,
18 "commissioned" means an employee of a law enforcement agency
19 who is authorized by a sheriff or chief of police to apprehend,
20 arrest and bring before the court all violators within the
21 state;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the university
24 of New Mexico school of law be requested to convene a law
25 enforcement academy curriculum task force; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
2 appoint professors, law enforcement training experts, community
3 members and representatives from geographically diverse law
4 enforcement agencies to participate in a collaborative process
5 to review the current curriculum and make recommendations for
6 improvement; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor, in consultation
8 with majority leadership in the house of representatives and
9 senate and minority leadership in the house of representatives
10 and senate, appoint seventeen members to the task force to
11 review the current curriculum and make recommendations for
12 improvement; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the law enforcement academy
14 curriculum task force be requested to meet between the 2021
15 regular legislative session and the 2022 regular legislative
16 session to devise a plan for implementation of its
17 recommendations; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
19 report its findings and recommendations to the governor, the
20 interim legislative committee dealing with courts, corrections
21 and justice issues, the standing house judiciary committee and
22 the standing senate judiciary committee; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the governor, the interim legislative committee
25 dealing with courts, corrections and justice issues, the

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1 standing house judiciary committee and the standing senate
2 judiciary committee.

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