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1 six hearings in fiscal year 2000, the highest number of
2 hearings ever conducted by the board, an increase of sixty-two
3 and one-half percent over the number of cases reviewed in 1990,
4 twenty-one and six-tenths percent above the number reviewed in
5 fiscal year 1995 and three and six-tenths percent over the
6 number of hearings conducted in fiscal year 1999; and

7 WHEREAS, approximately thirty-one percent, or nine hundred
8 forty-six, of the hearings conducted in fiscal year 2000 were
9 revocation hearings, in which the parole board exercised
10 discretion on whether to revoke parole and return the parolee
11 to prison or reinstate the parolee to parole; and

12 WHEREAS, it is projected that the parole board will
13 conduct between three thousand one hundred and three thousand
14 two hundred hearings for fiscal year 2001; and

15 WHEREAS, the parole board reviewed and made
16 recommendations on two hundred forty-nine executive clemency
17 applications for fiscal year 2000; and

18 WHEREAS, the number of individuals incarcerated within
19 corrections department facilities has steadily increased over
20 the years; and

21 WHEREAS, the corrections department incarcerates inmates
22 at thirteen different facilities in the seven communities of
23 Grants, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Los Lunas, Roswell, Santa Fe and
24 Santa Rosa; and

25 WHEREAS, numerous members of the parole board travel

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1 significant distances to the corrections department facilities
2 throughout the state to conduct hearings; and

3 WHEREAS, parole or revocation hearings are scheduled
4 thirteen to fourteen days out of the month; and

5 WHEREAS, parole board members currently provide a
6 substantial and significant service to the state by committing
7 to be present at hearings six or seven business days per month
8 to attend to board business, including quarterly board
9 meetings, reviewing cases, hearing preparation and conducting
10 of parole and revocation hearings throughout the state; and

11 WHEREAS, the extent of the time commitment necessary to
12 fulfill the duties of the positions of a volunteer parole board
13 member is so significant that attracting and retaining board
14 members may be adversely affected; and

15 WHEREAS, the parole board is committed to enhancing the
16 public safety and providing quality service to the citizens of
17 the state;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that, in furthering the mission of the
20 parole board, the legislature conduct a study to determine
21 whether the board should return to a full-time paid board,
22 continue as an all-volunteer board or transform into a
23 synthesis of a paid and volunteer board; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
25 council assign the review of the parole board to an appropriate

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1 interim legislative committee to hear testimony from parole
2 board members, agency staff and other individuals that the
3 committee members deem appropriate or necessary; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee assigned to hold
5 hearings regarding the structure of the parole board develop
6 legislation reflecting the sense of the committee regarding the
7 structure that is most reasonable for maintaining the public
8 safety and providing fair and informed hearings for inmates and
9 parolees and include in the legislation an approximation of the
10 estimated costs of the structure agreed upon by the committee;
11 and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and the
14 chairman of the parole board.

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