

HOUSE MEMORIAL 38

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE STUDY TO ASSESS GAPS IN SERVICE TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRST RESPONDERS REGARDING CULTURALLY AND SOCIALLY RELEVANT RESPONSES TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

WHEREAS, during the 2021 regular legislative session, the house of representatives passed House Memorial 13, which requested the secretary of public safety to convene a working group of representatives from the department of public safety, local community leaders, the business community, the homeland security and emergency management department, the New Mexico law enforcement academy, local, tribal and state law enforcement and first responder agencies and local higher education institutions to discuss the creation of a satellite law enforcement and first responder training center in northern

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1 New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, during the course of the year-long study, the
3 working group known as the northern New Mexico law enforcement
4 academy coalition discovered a gap in training needs regarding
5 culturally relevant responses to emergency situations involving
6 law enforcement officers and firefighters, the need for trauma-
7 informed training related to sexual violence, domestic violence
8 and stalking and the need for a better understanding of the
9 needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer
10 populations in our state; and

11 WHEREAS, the working group known as the northern New
12 Mexico law enforcement academy coalition further discovered
13 gaps in first response training concerning cultural and
14 language needs, intellectual and developmental disabilities and
15 mental and behavioral health needs; and

16 WHEREAS, gaps in training for law enforcement and first
17 responders may exist outside of the working group, across the
18 state of New Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks seventh in the nation for rates
20 of sexual assault; eighty-four percent of American Indian and
21 Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their
22 lifetimes and are nearly two times more likely to have
23 experienced violence in the last year; and more than seventy-
24 five thousand New Mexicans identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual,
25 transgender or queer; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico is rich in cultural wealth, and needs
2 across the state are vast and differing, requiring cultural,
3 spiritual and linguistic responses respective of our diverse
4 communities; and

5 WHEREAS, during this legislative session, the statewide
6 budget for law enforcement will see a significant increase in
7 programs designed to recruit, train, certify and retain police
8 officers; and

9 WHEREAS, training structure, content and financial and
10 social resources should meet the needs of training and
11 retraining officers that is tailored to the diversity of New
12 Mexico's respective communities, indigenous and non-indigenous,
13 in need of adequate first response; and

14 WHEREAS, the department of public safety has committed to
15 determining the needs of the state and its respective
16 communities for the training to be procured for its officers;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a statewide
19 study of needs be conducted by the department of public safety
20 to assess gaps in service training for law enforcement and
21 first responders regarding culturally and socially relevant
22 responses to emergency situations, the need for trauma-informed
23 training related to sexual violence, domestic violence and
24 stalking and the unique needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,
25 transgender and queer communities in emergency situations; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the needs assessment be
2 developed in collaboration with local organizations with
3 expertise in trauma-informed responses to sexual assault,
4 domestic violence and stalking, organizations with expertise in
5 culturally relevant responses to emergency situations and
6 organizations with expertise on the unique needs of lesbian,
7 gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities in emergency
8 situations; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the needs assessment determine
10 the best geographic locations to meet the proposed needs; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of public
12 safety, the working group known as the northern New Mexico law
13 enforcement academy coalition and the local collaborating
14 organizations make a report of their findings and
15 recommendations to the appropriate legislative interim
16 committee that studies issues pertaining to courts, corrections
17 and justice no later than July 1, 2023; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the department of public safety and the co-
20 chairs of the appropriate legislative interim committee that
21 studies issues pertaining to courts, corrections and justice.