

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION AND THE
CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT TO EXAMINE THE RATES CHARGED FOR
COLLECT CALLS PLACED BY NEW MEXICO INMATES AND DETERMINE
WHETHER THE CHARGES ARE REASONABLE AND HOW REVENUES DERIVED
FROM CHARGES ARE EXPENDED.

WHEREAS, close communication between inmates and their
families is an important factor in the rehabilitation of
those incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, much of the communication that occurs between
New Mexico inmates and their families is through collect
calls placed by the inmates; and

WHEREAS, according to news reports, the rates charged to
the families of inmates for the collect calls are excessive
and unreasonable; and

WHEREAS, according to the news reports, the revenue

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1 received for the phone calls by the public and private
2 entities that incarcerate New Mexico inmates has now become
3 an important revenue source for those entities; and

4 WHEREAS, contracts for services provided to correctional
5 facilities should be awarded to those companies that offer
6 the best service at the lowest cost, not to those that offer
7 the highest rebate to the prison operator;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public regulation commission be
10 requested to investigate the rates charged by the corrections
11 department, and by private entities that incarcerate inmates
12 on behalf of the corrections department, for collect calls
13 placed by inmates and determine if the rates are excessive
14 and unreasonable when compared to similar service offered to
15 other citizens of this state; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department
17 be requested to cooperate with the investigation of the
18 public regulation commission and to examine whether the
19 revenue received by private operators of correctional
20 facilities for the collect calls is credited against contract
21 payments made by the state and to also examine whether the
22 revenue received by the corrections department for the
23 collect calls is made available for future appropriation by
24 the legislature; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public regulation
commission and the corrections department report their
findings by December 1, 2000 to the interim courts,

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1 corrections and criminal justice committee or such other
2 committee as may be designated by the New Mexico legislative
3 council; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the public regulation commission, the
6 corrections department and the New Mexico legislative
7 council.

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