1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 38
2	45th legislature - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Leonard Lee Rawson
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10	A JOINT MEMORIAL
11	REQUESTING THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION AND THE CORRECTIONS
12	DEPARTMENT TO EXAMINE THE RATES CHARGED FOR COLLECT CALLS
13	PLACED BY NEW MEXICO INMATES AND DETERMINE WHETHER THE CHARGES
14	ARE REASONABLE AND HOW REVENUES DERIVED FROM CHARGES ARE
15	EXPENDED.
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17	WHEREAS, close communication between inmates and their
18	families is an important factor in the rehabilitation of those
19	incarcerated; and
20	WHEREAS, much of the communication that occurs between New
21	Mexico inmates and their families is through collect calls
22	placed by the inmates; and
23	WHEREAS, according to news reports, the rates charged to
24	the families of inmates for the collect calls are excessive and
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1 unreasonable; and

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WHEREAS, according to news reports, the revenue received for the phone calls by the public and private entities that incarcerate New Mexico inmates has now become an important revenue source for those entities; and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department be requested to cooperate with the investigation of the public regulation commission and to examine whether the revenue received by private operators of correctional facilities for the collect calls is credited against contract payments made by the state and to also examine whether the revenue received by the corrections department for the collect calls is made available for future appropriation by the legislature; and . 135688.1

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1	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public regulation
2	commission and the corrections department report their findings
3	by December 1, 2001 to the appropriate legislative interim
4	committee as may be designated by the New Mexico legislative
5	council; and
6	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7	transmitted to the public regulation commission, the
8	corrections department and the New Mexico legislative council.
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