

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 43

2 46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Richard C. Martinez

5  
6  
7  
8 FOR THE CORRECTIONS OVERSIGHT AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT EXECUTIVE AGENCIES FORM A TASK FORCE TO STUDY  
12 BARRIERS TO SUCCESSFUL REINTEGRATION OF PAROLEES INTO  
13 COMMUNITIES.

14  
15 WHEREAS, seventy-two percent of parolees under supervision  
16 in New Mexico fail to successfully complete their parole; and

17 WHEREAS, coordination of release and reentry planning for  
18 parolees by executive agencies is limited; and

19 WHEREAS, significant barriers to employment, public  
20 benefits, housing, family reintegration, education and legal  
21 immigration status impede parolees' efforts to successfully  
22 rejoin their families and communities; and

23 WHEREAS, establishing more effective communication between  
24 executive agencies may reduce those barriers and may also  
25 reduce recidivism rates for parolees; and

.149917.1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, barriers built into the current system of parole,  
2 although intended to reduce crime and enhance community safety,  
3 have had a counterproductive effect; and

4           WHEREAS, those barriers have made it more difficult for  
5 parolees to successfully reenter communities, care for their  
6 children and avoid criminal activity; and

7           WHEREAS, the corrections department has initiated a  
8 program of parole coordinators, located in four regions of the  
9 state, to improve services to parolees; and

10          WHEREAS, that program should be monitored and, if  
11 successful, expanded;

12          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of corrections, or his  
14 designee, convene a task force to study barriers to successful  
15 reintegration of parolees into their communities and to improve  
16 coordination of release and reentry planning for parolees by  
17 executive agencies; and

18          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study barriers  
19 to employment, public benefits, housing, family reintegration,  
20 education and legal immigration status that hamper parolees'  
21 efforts to rejoin their families and communities; and

22          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include the  
23 secretary of human services, or her designee; the secretary of  
24 children, youth and families, or her designee; the secretary of  
25 health, or her designee; the secretary of labor, or his

.149917.1

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 designee; the secretary of public education, or her designee; a  
2 representative from the New Mexico women's justice project; and  
3 a representative from the New Mexico center on law and poverty;  
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a report  
6 and its recommendations to the interim corrections oversight  
7 and justice committee and to the interim legislative health and  
8 human services committee no later than November 1, 2004; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the secretary of corrections, the secretary of  
11 human services, the secretary of children, youth and families,  
12 the secretary of health, the secretary of labor, the secretary  
13 of public education, the New Mexico women's justice project and  
14 the New Mexico center on law and poverty.

15 - 3 -  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25