

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 85

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT STUDY THE RECIDIVISM RATES AND THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRISONS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, recidivism reduction is one of the critical means that the corrections department can use to ensure adequate bed space for the future; and

WHEREAS, over ninety percent of prisoners will be released from prison back into their communities; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to ensure that prisoners are receiving the appropriate programming to prepare them for their eventual release from prison; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that prisoners are prepared to become productive members of their communities; and

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1 taught skills while in prison to address their possible
2 addictions and mental health, education, vocational, parenting
3 and family unification needs;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections department be
6 requested to study the recidivism rates and the program
7 requirements and outcomes in the public and private prisons in
8 New Mexico; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study analyze data
10 collected over a period of three years; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
12 corrections department collaborate with the New Mexico
13 sentencing commission and the institute for social research at
14 the university of New Mexico to develop best-case practice
15 criteria for the study that take into account the probation and
16 parole transitions of prisoners; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department
18 report the results of the study, including any legislative
19 recommendations, to the appropriate interim legislative
20 committee; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the secretary of corrections and the co-chairs
23 of the New Mexico legislative council.
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