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HOUSE BILL 223

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio "Moe" Maestas

FOR THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO CONTINUE THE TASK FORCE ON
EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS FOR PERSONS WITH CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. APPROPRIATION.--

A. One hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000)
is appropriated from the general fund to the workforce
solutions department for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 to
continue the work of the task force created in the 2007
legislative session by House Memorial 41 and Senate Joint
Memorial 4 to review barriers to public employment for persons
with criminal convictions and to:

(1) review current clearance regulations for
all state agencies and local public bodies and make
recommendations;

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1 (2) develop and administer, in coordination
2 with the New Mexico municipal league and the New Mexico
3 association of counties, a survey to obtain information from
4 local public bodies, community colleges and state-funded
5 universities on how their hiring practices may impact persons
6 with criminal convictions;

7 (3) review admission and other requirements of
8 local community colleges and state-funded universities to
9 ensure that institutions of higher education are not
10 prohibiting persons with criminal convictions from attending,
11 taking classes and selecting career paths;

12 (4) investigate and develop a proposal for a
13 New Mexico civic justice conservation corps and community
14 custody program that would provide full-time paid opportunities
15 for people transitioning out of prison;

16 (5) study the effectiveness of establishing an
17 independent office of advocacy that would be administratively
18 attached to the workforce solutions department and the
19 effectiveness of establishing a commission to oversee this
20 office; and

21 (6) host a public sector job fair in
22 collaboration with the state personnel office, the corrections
23 department, the city of Albuquerque and Bernalillo county to
24 assist persons with criminal convictions in obtaining
25 employment and pursuing career paths.

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