

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 36

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS TO COLLABORATE WITH ALL OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY, COSTS AND BENEFITS OF CENTRALIZING HUMAN RESOURCES, PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has fourteen district attorneys who are elected by the citizenry to investigate and prosecute criminal cases; and

WHEREAS, the district attorneys are assisted in the accomplishment of these duties and responsibilities by the administrative office of the district attorneys; and

WHEREAS, the administrative office of the district attorneys was created by statute to assist the fourteen elected district attorneys with various administrative duties,

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1 including the preparation and presentation of budgetary  
2 matters, the preparation of pay plans and the preparation of  
3 operating manuals to standardize operations in district  
4 attorney offices within the state; and

5 WHEREAS, the administrative support activities performed  
6 by the administrative office of the district attorneys are  
7 designed to ease the administrative burden of the district  
8 attorneys and to ensure uniform approaches to the conduct of  
9 the district attorneys within the state in the administration  
10 of justice; and

11 WHEREAS, the District Attorney Personnel and Compensation  
12 Act establishes a uniform, equitable and binding system of  
13 personnel administration for district attorneys in the state;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, that act created the district attorney personnel  
16 review board, which is composed of five district attorneys and  
17 which exists to recommend and periodically review regulations  
18 governing many aspects of personnel management and compensation  
19 and to hear certain appeals following employee disciplinary  
20 actions, but which does not provide administrative assistance  
21 with the day-to-day human resources activities of the district  
22 attorneys; and

23 WHEREAS, the regular duties of the district attorneys are  
24 and should be focused on the successful investigation and  
25 prosecution of crimes, leaving them little time to engage in

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1 the myriad responsibilities associated with personnel  
2 management; and

3 WHEREAS, in order to maintain an office and conduct  
4 business efficiently and effectively, district attorneys must  
5 purchase supplies and equipment, enter into contracts and  
6 engage in other activities that necessitate involvement in  
7 administrative and fiscal activities unrelated to the practice  
8 of law; and

9 WHEREAS, by statute, the administrative office of the  
10 district attorneys has a director to oversee the administrative  
11 duties and responsibilities that are assigned to it; and

12 WHEREAS, many of the duties and responsibilities of the  
13 administrative office of the district attorneys already bear a  
14 relationship to the day-to-day responsibilities of managing  
15 human resources, purchasing and other business activities;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the administrative office of the  
18 district attorneys be requested to collaborate with the  
19 fourteen elected district attorneys to study the feasibility,  
20 costs and benefits of centralizing human resources, purchasing  
21 and contracting activities under the administrative office of  
22 the district attorneys; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study identify activities  
24 accomplished by each individual district attorney's office that  
25 are duplicative and could benefit from centralization; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of this study,  
2 including findings and recommendations regarding centralization  
3 of human resources, purchasing, contracting and other business  
4 activities, be presented to the appropriate interim legislative  
5 committee by October 1, 2009; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the director of the administrative office of the  
8 district attorneys and to all of the district attorneys.

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