

1 SENATE BILL 325

2 57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pete Campos

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS; ESTABLISHING A POST-SECONDARY  
12 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG  
13 ABUSE COUNSELING FOR QUALIFIED INMATES IN ALL CORRECTIONAL  
14 FACILITIES; PROVIDING THAT LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRANT THE  
15 ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND THAT NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY  
16 DEVELOP THE CURRICULUM AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; MAKING  
17 AN APPROPRIATION.

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

20 SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 33 NMSA 1978 is  
21 enacted to read:

22 "[NEW MATERIAL] ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELING  
23 PROGRAM.--

24 A. The corrections department shall establish and  
25 administer a post-secondary education program for an associate

.228772.1

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1 degree in alcohol and drug abuse counseling for qualified  
2 inmates in all state correctional facilities, including  
3 facilities privately operated pursuant to a contract executed  
4 in accordance with Section 33-1-17 NMSA 1978.

5 B. Luna community college shall grant the associate  
6 degree for the program, and New Mexico highlands university  
7 shall develop the curriculum and provide technical assistance  
8 to the corrections department and Luna community college for  
9 the program's administration.

10 C. At minimum, the program shall:

11 (1) be accredited by the appropriate regional  
12 or national accrediting agency; and

13 (2) meet the licensing requirements for an  
14 alcohol and drug abuse counselor as provided in the Counseling  
15 and Therapy Practice Act."

16 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars  
17 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
18 corrections department for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 and  
19 subsequent fiscal years to establish and administer a post-  
20 secondary education program for an associate degree in alcohol  
21 and drug abuse counseling. Any unexpended or unencumbered  
22 balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert  
23 to the general fund.