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SENATE BILL 464

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Lee Rawson

AN ACT

**RELATING TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT; PROVIDING FOR A
CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL
CONSOLIDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE AND MUNICIPAL COURTS IN DONA
ANA COUNTY; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

**Section 1. CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMITTEE-- COMPOSITION--
DUTIES-- APPROPRIATION. --**

**A. With the approval and direction of the supreme
court, the administrative office of the courts shall create a
"consolidation study committee" to study the potential
consolidation of the magistrate and municipal courts in Dona
Ana county. The committee shall consist of seventeen members
as follows:**

- (1) a district judge from the third judicial**

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1 district, appointed by the chief judge of the district;

2 (2) two Dona Ana county magistrate judges,
3 appointed by the director of the administrative office of the
4 courts;

5 (3) a municipal judge from the city of Las
6 Cruces, appointed by the director of the administrative office
7 of the courts;

8 (4) three attorneys who commonly practice in
9 the Dona Ana county magistrate court or the city of Las Cruces
10 municipal court, appointed by the third judicial district bar
11 association;

12 (5) one public member appointed by the mayor
13 of the city of Las Cruces;

14 (6) one public member appointed by the city
15 council of the city of Las Cruces;

16 (7) one public member appointed by the board
17 of county commissioners for Dona Ana county;

18 (8) two administrative personnel from the
19 Dona Ana county magistrate court, appointed by the
20 magistrates;

21 (9) two administrative personnel from the
22 city of Las Cruces municipal court, appointed by the municipal
23 judges;

24 (10) a designee of the director of the
25 administrative office of the courts;

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1 (11) a member of the city of Las Cruces
2 administration, appointed by the mayor; and

3 (12) a member of the city council of the city
4 of Las Cruces, appointed by the city council.

5 B. The committee shall elect a chairman and such
6 other officers as it deems necessary. The committee shall
7 meet at the call of the chairman but no less than once per
8 month. The committee may contract with a part-time individual
9 to assist the committee with its administrative functions.

10 C. Committee members shall not be paid but may be
11 reimbursed for per diem and mileage pursuant to the Per Diem
12 and Mileage Act.

13 D. The committee shall investigate and evaluate
14 the effectiveness and judicial efficiency of community-based
15 judicial systems in other areas and determine the feasibility
16 of creating a consolidated system in the Dona Ana county court
17 system. The committee shall report its findings and
18 recommendation to the city council, the board of county
19 commissioners and the legislature by December 1, 2001.

20 E. Sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) is
21 appropriated from the general fund to the administrative
22 office of the courts for expenditure in fiscal year 2002 for
23 carrying out the provisions of this section. Any unexpended
24 or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year
25 2002 shall revert to the general fund.