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SENATE BILL 196

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

FOR THE CORRECTIONS OVERSIGHT AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS; ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT BOARD OF
INQUIRY TO EXAMINE ISSUES REGARDING THE INCARCERATION OF
FEMALE INMATES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. INDEPENDENT BOARD OF INQUIRY--ISSUES
REGARDING INCARCERATION OF FEMALE INMATES--DUTIES--REPORT.--

A. An independent board of inquiry is established
to examine issues regarding the incarceration of female
inmates. The independent board of inquiry shall be composed
of three corrections consultants, each of whom possesses
expertise with regard to the incarceration of female inmates.

B. The corrections consultants shall be selected
following the issuance of a request for proposals by the
legislative council service.

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1 C. The independent board of inquiry shall conduct
2 a comprehensive review of issues regarding incarceration of
3 female inmates, including:

4 (1) classification policies and procedures;

5 (2) the use of administration segregation;

6 (3) policies and procedures for protecting
7 female inmates from sexual assault and harassment;

8 (4) provision of medical services, including
9 screening and treatment issues;

10 (5) provision of mental health services,
11 including diagnosis, treatment and medication issues; and

12 (6) policies and procedures concerning parole
13 planning for female inmates.

14 D. The independent board of inquiry shall make
15 periodic oral reports to the joint interim legislative
16 corrections oversight committee during the 2002 interim.

17 Prior to December 1, 2002, the independent board of inquiry
18 shall make its final oral report and present the corrections
19 oversight committee with a written report of its findings and
20 recommendations.

21 E. The corrections department and any private
22 entity that contracts with the department for the provision of
23 correctional services for female inmates shall, upon request
24 from the independent board of inquiry, make available any
25 documents, material or information requested by the

1 independent board of inquiry.

2 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- One hundred twenty-five
3 thousand dollars (\$125,000) is appropriated from the general
4 fund to the legislative council service for expenditure in
5 fiscal year 2003 for the purpose of contracting with
6 corrections consultants to examine issues regarding the
7 incarceration of female inmates. The corrections consultants
8 shall report to the joint interim legislative corrections
9 oversight committee. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
10 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003 shall revert to the
11 general fund.

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