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SENATE BILL 649

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph Cervantes

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL SENTENCING; REQUIRING THE NEW MEXICO
SENTENCING COMMISSION TO PREPARE FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR
LEGISLATION THAT WOULD INCREASE, DECREASE OR CREATE CRIMINAL
PENALTIES; REQUIRING THAT AN APPROPRIATION BE INCLUDED WITH
SUCH LEGISLATION; CREATING A FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] LEGISLATION TO INCREASE,
DECREASE OR CREATE PERIODS OF IMPRISONMENT--FISCAL IMPACT
STATEMENTS--PROCEDURE.--

A. The New Mexico sentencing commission shall
prepare a fiscal impact statement as provided in this section
for a bill that:

(1) creates a new crime or repeals an existing
crime for which imprisonment is authorized;

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1 (2) increases or decreases the period of
2 imprisonment authorized for an existing crime;

3 (3) imposes or removes mandatory minimum terms
4 of imprisonment; or

5 (4) modifies the law governing release of
6 inmates in such a way that the time served in prison will
7 increase or decrease.

8 B. A fiscal impact statement shall reflect the
9 estimated increase in annual operating costs for the
10 corrections department attributable to the bill if it becomes
11 law. The estimated increase in annual operating costs shall
12 reflect the highest annual increase from the projected increase
13 for the six fiscal years following the effective date of the
14 law and shall be calculated in current dollars. The fiscal
15 impact statement shall include details concerning any increase
16 or decrease in the inmate population.

17 C. The amount estimated in a fiscal impact
18 statement shall be included in the bill as a one-year
19 appropriation from the general fund to the criminal justice
20 special fund. If the New Mexico sentencing commission does not
21 have sufficient information to project the fiscal impact, the
22 fiscal impact statement shall state that there is insufficient
23 information to estimate the fiscal impact.

24 D. The corrections department shall annually
25 provide the New Mexico sentencing commission with the average

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1 operating costs per inmate and the number of inmates in adult
2 correctional facilities. The corrections department shall
3 annually provide the New Mexico sentencing commission with
4 admissions and release data for all inmates in adult
5 correctional facilities. The judiciary shall annually provide
6 the New Mexico sentencing commission with requested data
7 necessary to prepare fiscal impact statements.

8 E. As used in this section, "operating costs" means
9 all costs other than capital outlay costs for state-operated
10 adult correctional facilities and privately operated adult
11 correctional facilities.

12 SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] CRIMINAL JUSTICE SPECIAL FUND--
13 CREATED.--

14 A. The "criminal justice special fund" is created
15 in the state treasury. The fund consists of appropriations,
16 gifts, grants, donations and bequests made to the fund. Income
17 from the fund shall be credited to the fund. Money in the
18 criminal justice special fund shall not revert to the general
19 fund.

20 B. Money in the criminal justice special fund shall
21 be subject to appropriation by the legislature for criminal
22 justice purposes, including operational costs of the
23 corrections department, courts, district attorneys and the
24 public defender department.

25 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred seventy-six

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1 thousand five hundred dollars (\$176,500) is appropriated from
2 the general fund to the New Mexico sentencing commission for
3 expenditure in fiscal year 2016 to obtain necessary computer
4 models, technology, research and data and to hire personnel for
5 the preparation of fiscal impact statements as required by this
6 act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the
7 end of fiscal year 2016 shall revert to the general fund.

8 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
9 provisions of this act is July 1, 2015.