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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022**

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

FOR THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ADD A NEW SECTION TO ESTABLISH IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT AN OFFICE OF FAMILY REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY.

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

**SECTION 1.** It is proposed to amend Article 6 of the constitution of New Mexico by adding a new section to read:

"A. The "office of family representation and advocacy" is established as an independent state agency for the purpose of providing representation to indigent persons as provided by law, with standards of representation as also provided by law. The director is the administrative head of the office of family representation and advocacy. The term and qualifications of the director shall be provided by law.

B. The "family representation and advocacy

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1 oversight commission" is established. The commission shall  
2 appoint the director. The commission shall exercise  
3 independent oversight of the office of family representation  
4 and advocacy. The commission shall not interfere with the  
5 discretion, professional judgment or advocacy of the office of  
6 family representation and advocacy, a contractor with the  
7 office or an assigned counsel in an individual case. Terms,  
8 qualifications and membership of the commission shall be  
9 established by law."

10 SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution  
11 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or  
12 rejection at the next general election or at any special  
13 election prior to that date that may be called for that  
14 purpose.

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