

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO CONVENE A
3 TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON SAFE STAFFING
4 LEVELS AT THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT AND THE CHILDREN, YOUTH
5 AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT.

6
7 WHEREAS, the corrections department and the children,
8 youth and families department provide critical public safety
9 services in this state; and

10 WHEREAS, the corrections department and the children,
11 youth and families department must have adequate staffing
12 levels to provide those critical services; and

13 WHEREAS, over the last decade, both the corrections
14 department and the children, youth and families department
15 have been significantly understaffed; and

16 WHEREAS, some correctional facilities have official
17 vacancy rates for frontline correctional officer positions in
18 excess of thirty percent, which has led to more dangerous
19 staffing situations in correctional facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, several frontline positions at the children,
21 youth and families department have official vacancy rates in
22 excess of thirty percent, including child protective services
23 and juvenile justice facility positions; and

24 WHEREAS, it is difficult to fully evaluate the
25 understaffing situations at the corrections department and

1 the children, youth and families department because the
2 departments have eliminated many unfilled positions; and

3 WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department is
4 operating under the requirements of the *Kevin S.* settlement
5 agreement that necessitates adequate and safe staffing; and

6 WHEREAS, there has been a lack of opportunity for
7 frontline workers to provide input and perspective to shape
8 recruiting and retention policies at the corrections
9 department or the children, youth and families department;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, ensuring the safety of the public is the most
12 essential role of state government;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
15 legislative finance committee be requested to create a task
16 force to generate a report that:

17 A. recommends safe and adequate staffing levels
18 for all public safety positions at the corrections department
19 and the children, youth and families department;

20 B. analyzes current staffing levels at the
21 corrections department and the children, youth and families
22 department, including shift, post and job classification
23 details;

24 C. determines the reasons for current inadequate
25 staffing levels;

1 D. analyzes the efficacy of current recruiting and
2 retention strategies at the corrections department and the
3 children, youth and families department;

4 E. recommends actions that the executive branch
5 could take to remedy inadequate staffing levels; and

6 F. recommends legislation, including
7 appropriations, necessary to remedy inadequate staffing
8 levels; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
10 to consist of the following members:

11 A. a member from the state personnel office,
12 appointed by the director of the state personnel office, with
13 direct knowledge of the corrections department and the
14 children, youth and families department job classifications,
15 pay bands and hiring practices;

16 B. a member from the corrections department
17 appointed by the secretary of corrections;

18 C. a member from the children, youth and families
19 department appointed by the secretary of children, youth and
20 families;

21 D. three members employed by the children, youth
22 and families department, including at least one member who
23 works in child protective services and at least one member
24 who is a correctional officer in a juvenile detention
25 facility, appointed by the executive director of the union

1 representing the largest number of employees at the
2 corrections department and the children, youth and families
3 department;

4 E. one member employed at the union representing
5 the largest number of employees at the corrections department
6 and the children, youth and families department, appointed by
7 the executive director of that union;

8 F. two members, appointed by the speaker of the
9 house of representatives, who are state representatives;

10 G. one member, appointed by the minority leader of
11 the house of representatives, who is a state representative;

12 H. two members, appointed by the majority leader
13 of the senate, who are state senators; and

14 I. one member, appointed by the minority leader of
15 the senate, who is a state senator; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
17 to meet monthly from May 2025 through November 2025 to
18 develop and finalize the report by December 1, 2025; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report developed
20 pursuant to this memorial be provided to the corrections
21 department, the children, youth and families department, the
22 office of the governor and the legislature; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report developed
24 pursuant to this memorial be made available to the public on
25 the legislature's website; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the corrections department, the children, youth and families department, the office of the governor and each member of the legislature. _____