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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 52

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

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madalena

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF FUNDING ISSUES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Section 29-7-12 NMSA 1978 provides that the training and recruiting division of the department of public safety shall not charge local public bodies and New Mexico Indian tribes and pueblos for any expenses associated with providing basic law enforcement training to prospective officers for those entities; and

WHEREAS, despite the statutory language in Section 29-7-12 NMSA 1978, funding for the training and recruiting division is not sufficient to allow the division to provide basic law enforcement training, at no charge, to prospective officers for local public bodies and New Mexico Indian tribes and pueblos; and

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1 WHEREAS, Section 29-3-4 NMSA 1978 provides that the
2 university of New Mexico, the human services department, the
3 department of health and all other state departments shall,
4 free of charge, cooperate with law enforcement officers of the
5 state and the New Mexico state police, and render to them
6 services and assistance relative to microanalysis,
7 handwriting, toxicology, chemistry, photography, medicine,
8 ballistics and all other criminal forensic services needed for
9 the identification and prosecution of criminals; and

10 WHEREAS, the salary structure for state employees makes
11 it difficult to hire and retain forensic scientists who are
12 needed to perform the criminal forensic services necessary for
13 the identification and prosecution of criminals; and

14 WHEREAS, state criminal forensic services, while free,
15 are not timely, and law enforcement agencies are often
16 required to contract with private firms for criminal forensic
17 services; and

18 WHEREAS, in many instances throughout the state, sheriffs
19 are paid a significantly lower salary than their
20 undersheriffs; and

21 WHEREAS, Section 29-13-6 NMSA 1978 provides different
22 rates of distribution from the law enforcement protection fund
23 to municipalities, counties, universities and New Mexico
24 Indian tribes and pueblos, including a lower distribution rate
25 for the tribes and pueblos;

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