

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/27/09

SPONSOR Griego, E. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Penal System Reform SJM 56

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 56 requests that the New Mexico Legislative Council assign a study of penal system reform to the appropriate interim legislative committee. The study should include the psychological rehabilitation being given to prisoners before release; job training and other career programs being offered to prisoners (including job placement for releasing prisoners); how probation and parole officers may assist with the employment of releasing prisoners; and how the programs and opportunities for prisoners at private institutions differ from those offered prisoners at state-owned institutions.

The memorial requests that the results of the study be sent to the Governor and the second session of the forty-ninth Legislature, and copies of the memorial be sent to the Legislative Council.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Joint Memorial 56 makes no appropriations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMCD reports that the Governor’s Prison Reform Task Force has already met and considered substantially all of these issues. The task force has already made recommendations. The Corrections already has established a Deputy Secretary of Reentry and Prison Reform, and has already established a Reentry and Prison Reform Bureau (and Bureau Chief). The Bureau is already working to implement the task force’s recommendations and to improve the “reentry into the community process” for all of its offenders, including job training programs and evidence-based mental health treatment and treatment programs. The Corrections Department is past the study phase, and is into the implementation and effectuation phase of prison reform. The Memorial seeks to study or review issues that have already been exhaustively studied or reviewed.

The Memorial seems to assume that mental health treatment and job training are not as readily available or high quality at private prisons as opposed to state-operated prisons. This assumption is a faulty one. Comparable treatment and training are available at both private and public prisons.

CH/svb