

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, IN
3 COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ENTITIES, STUDY AND
4 COMPILE DATA REGARDING CRIMINAL STREET GANG INTERVENTION AND
5 PREVENTION AND CONSOLIDATE AND CENTRALIZE STATEWIDE EFFORTS ON
6 COMBATING CRIMINAL STREET GANG ACTIVITY.

7
8 WHEREAS, the 2008 United States department of justice
9 national gang intelligence center report shows that criminal
10 gangs in the United States have swelled to an estimated one
11 million members and are responsible for up to eighty percent
12 of crimes committed in communities across the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, the national gang intelligence center estimates
14 that there are six hundred eighty gangs with approximately
15 thirteen thousand eight hundred members in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, there are approximately five to seven gang
17 members per one thousand residents in New Mexico, making it
18 one of the top five states per capita in gang membership in
19 the nation; and

20 WHEREAS, there are approximately four to six gang
21 members per every law enforcement officer in New Mexico, the
22 third-highest ratio in the nation; and

23 WHEREAS, criminal street gangs pose an ever-present
24 danger to all New Mexicans, in all communities and across all
25 socioeconomic divisions; and

1 WHEREAS, the impact of criminal street gang recruiting
2 is especially felt by the youth of New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, currently, no statutory definition or common
4 analytical structure exists to adequately combat the violence
5 and attendant issues surrounding criminal street gangs;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of public safety, in
8 coordination with federal, state and local entities, be
9 requested to study and compile data regarding criminal street
10 gang intervention and prevention; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of public
12 safety be requested to consolidate and centralize statewide
13 efforts on combating criminal street gang activity; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public
15 safety be requested to coordinate with federal, state and
16 local partners, including the corrections department, the
17 children, youth and families department, the offices of the
18 district attorneys, representatives from county and local law
19 enforcement and others, as the secretary of public safety
20 deems appropriate, in order to agree upon a common definition
21 through rulemaking that will assist in reducing the violence,
22 harm and criminal activity associated with criminal street
23 gangs in New Mexico; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the entities with which the
25 department of public safety coordinates its efforts to reduce

1 gang activity use the following definition of "criminal street
2 gang":

3 "criminal street gang" means an ongoing group,
4 club, organization or association of three or more
5 persons that has as one of its primary purposes the
6 commission of one or more of the criminal offenses
7 described in the New Mexico Criminal Code,
8 Chapters 30 and 33 NMSA 1978"; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coordination among these
10 entities reflect the best practices and findings of the
11 national gang intelligence center and other federal efforts to
12 address criminal street gang activity; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of public
14 safety present the preliminary findings of these entities'
15 efforts at coordinating to reduce gang activity to the
16 appropriate interim legislative committee by
17 November 30, 2013; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of public safety, the secretary
20 of corrections and the secretary of children, youth and
21 families.
