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SENATE MEMORIAL 68

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Richard C. Martinez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT AND THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY AND DETERMINE WAYS IN WHICH RECENTLY RELEASED INMATES CAN BE BETTER SUPPORTED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO REJOIN SOCIETY AND AVOID RECIDIVISM.

WHEREAS, as of February 1, 2019, there were six thousand two hundred ninety-five men and seven hundred seventy-four women incarcerated in New Mexico state correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, an average of sixty-five inmates were released from incarceration each week in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in May 2018, Bernalillo county opened a new resource re-entry center to assist recently released inmates, but that center serves only inmates being released from the Bernalillo county metropolitan detention center; and

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1 WHEREAS, there are insufficient housing and support
2 services to assist former inmates upon their release from
3 incarceration; and

4 WHEREAS, former inmates have limited resources upon their
5 release from incarceration, and they may be released on the
6 street without the means to make their way to transitional
7 housing; and

8 WHEREAS, there are businesses that are willing to provide
9 employment opportunities for recently released inmates, but
10 there is an insufficient network to enable former inmates to
11 find suitable employment; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the second-highest recidivism rate
13 in the country, with one-half of its former inmates landing
14 back behind prison bars within three years; and

15 WHEREAS, the availability of transitional housing, mental
16 health and substance abuse counseling, support services and
17 employment opportunities will help to reduce rates of
18 recidivism;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections department and the workforce
21 solutions department be requested to undertake a feasibility
22 study during the 2019 interim of what steps can be taken to
23 assist newly released inmates to find transitional housing and
24 employment and to successfully reintegrate into society,
25 thereby reducing the rate of recidivism; and

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