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SENATE MEMORIAL 61

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS, THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE SECRETARY OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO REPORT ON COURSEWORK TAUGHT WITHIN THE CORRECTIONS SYSTEM THAT RESULTS IN A CERTIFICATE OR ASSOCIATE OR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE.

WHEREAS, educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals contribute to post-incarceration success and lower recidivism rates; and

WHEREAS, the corrections department is responsible for the development, implementation and management of educational programming opportunities for incarcerated individuals; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico sentencing commission reports that the current inmate population is approximately six thousand eight hundred persons; and

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1 WHEREAS, the New Mexico sentencing commission reports a
2 recidivism rate of forty-six percent;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
4 OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of corrections, the secretary
5 of higher education and the secretary of workforce solutions be
6 requested to convene a working group to report on coursework
7 taught within the corrections system that results in a
8 certificate or associate or baccalaureate degree and any
9 clearly defined barriers or opportunities faced by students in
10 education programs offered by the corrections department; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
12 to make a report of its findings and recommendations to the
13 appropriate legislative interim committees that study issues
14 pertaining to criminal justice; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the secretary of corrections, the secretary of
17 higher education, the secretary of workforce solutions and the
18 co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative council.

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