

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES TO CONVENE
3 A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE COSTS, BENEFITS AND FEASIBILITY OF
4 A UNIFIED JAIL AND PRISON SYSTEM.

5
6 WHEREAS, there are twenty-seven county-operated adult
7 detention facilities in New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, the operational capacity of county-operated
9 adult detention facilities ranges from ten detainees and
10 inmates to two thousand three hundred thirty-six detainees
11 and inmates; and

12 WHEREAS, the average daily population of the twenty-
13 seven county-operated adult detention facilities ranges from
14 two to one thousand one hundred sixty detainees and inmates;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, detention facilities are complex operations
17 that require a high level of expertise and adequate numbers
18 of well-trained staff to function properly; and

19 WHEREAS, substantial time and resources are spent by
20 various governmental entities billing each other for the
21 costs of incarceration and addressing disputes regarding who
22 is responsible for paying those costs; and

23 WHEREAS, detainees and inmates are poorly served by a
24 system that does not have a way to effectively share medical
25 and behavioral health information; and

1 WHEREAS, the services and programming available in
2 county detention facilities vary greatly; and

3 WHEREAS, significant taxpayer dollars are wasted by
4 having twenty-seven independent facilities, each requiring
5 comprehensive medical and mental health services regardless
6 of size or capacity; and

7 WHEREAS, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode
8 Island and Vermont all have unified jail and prison systems,
9 and West Virginia has a single state authority that oversees
10 regional facilities; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico could benefit from the efficiencies
12 created by a unified system where records could be shared and
13 resources could be saved through economies of scale; and

14 WHEREAS, it is inefficient and wasteful to have numerous
15 independent governmental entities operating detention
16 facilities within the state;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New
19 Mexico association of counties be requested to convene a task
20 force of stakeholders to study the costs, benefits and
21 feasibility of a unified jail and prison system and other
22 strategies to improve services and efficiencies; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
24 representatives from the New Mexico association of counties,
25 the corrections department and the administrative office of

1 the courts; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
3 findings to the appropriate interim legislative committee by
4 December 1, 2022; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the executive director of the New Mexico
7 association of counties, the director of the administrative
8 office of the courts and the secretary of corrections.=====

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