

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Scott Sanchez</b>
-----------------------	----------------------

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**  
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)  
*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

**Date Prepared:** 02/12/2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** SB375 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Antonio Maestas **Agency Name and Code Number:** 770-NMCD  
**Short Title:** Probation and Parole Changes **Person Writing:** Anisa Griego-Quintana  
**Phone:** 505-479-2296 **Email:** anisa.griego-quinta@cd.nm.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
0	0	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
0	0	0	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	0					

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Senate Bill 375 seeks to eliminate the financial burden placed on parolees by removing the requirement for parole service payments. Additionally, the bill establishes provisions for the early release of minimum-risk defendants under certain conditions. The bill clarifies how meritorious deduction (reductions in sentence for good behavior or other qualifying criteria) are applied and ensures the projected release dates, based on these deductions are accurately calculated and communicated upon an inmate's admission to a correctional facility.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Senate Bill 375 represents a forward-thinking approach to criminal justice reform by eliminating unnecessary financial burdens on parolees and providing pathways for early release for minimum-risk offenders. By removing parole supervision fees, the bill reduces financial pressure on parolees, allowing them to focus on reintegrating into society. This shift enables parolees to allocate their financial resources toward essential needs, such as housing, transportation, and job searching.

Other states that have removed parole fines have found that it fostered better relationships between parolees and parole officers. Parolees were more likely to be open about their struggles and engage more effectively with rehabilitation and community reintegration programs. This approach aims to improve compliance and overall outcomes for parolees.

The bill also facilitates the early release of probationers who meet specific criteria.

1. Risk Classification: The defendant must be classified as a minimum-risk individual through a validated risk scoring instrument, ensuring that only those who pose a low risk to public safety are eligible for early release
2. Completion of Probation Obligations: The defendant must have met all obligations outlined in their probation terms, demonstrating compliance and commitment to rehabilitation.
3. Completion of Half of the Probation Period: The defendant must have completed at least 50% of their probationary period, showing significant progress toward successful reintegration.

By releasing low-risk individuals, the bill allows for more effective allocation of resources toward defendants who pose a higher risk to public safety, helping to create a more efficient and focused corrections system.

Finally, the amendments to Section 33-2-34 aim to incentivize rehabilitation through meritorious deductions by requiring active participation in approved programs for meritorious deductions, this provision encourages prisoners to engage in rehabilitative efforts, which are intended to reduce recidivism and improve reintegration into society.

The amendments also provide a clear incentive structure by making the meritorious deduction system more transparent, with defined limits based on the severity of the offense. This ensures a fair and predictable system that rewards good behavior. By denying meritorious deductions for parolees whose parole is revoked, the bill creates a clear disincentive for violating parole terms, promoting accountability within the correctional system. The revised guidelines establish consistent rules for all individuals, ensuring fairness in how meritorious deductions are applied and encouraging prisoners to focus on personal development and rehabilitation. This comprehensive approach is expected to improve outcomes for paroles and probationers, reduce recidivism, and streamline the use of correctional resources.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

None for the Corrections Department.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None for the Corrections Department.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None for the Corrections Department.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None for the Corrections Department.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None for the Corrections Department.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None for the Corrections Department.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

None for the Corrections Department.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status quo.

### **AMENDMENTS**

None proposed by the Corrections Department.