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SENATE MEMORIAL 86

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Richard C. Martinez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT
AT REGULAR INTERVALS TO THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE
EXAMINING CRIMINAL JUSTICE MATTERS IN THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE
INTERIM.

WHEREAS, in the 2013 legislative interim, the legislative
finance committee and the Pew research center briefed the
courts, corrections and justice committee on the results first
initiative; and

WHEREAS, the courts, corrections and justice committee
also heard a presentation from right on crime, a conservative
organization pushing for reform of the nation's criminal
justice system; and

WHEREAS, these presentations dovetailed with each other,
creating a bipartisan consensus to examine New Mexico's

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1 criminal justice system with an eye toward reforming what might
2 need reforming and using evidence-based analysis to analyze
3 programs utilized by the state's criminal justice system, in
4 order to create a criminal justice system that best serves the
5 people of New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, the Criminal Code in New Mexico's statutes has
7 many sections that are outdated, that, in some cases, seem to
8 conflict and that, due to piecemeal amendments over the years,
9 are often confusing; and

10 WHEREAS, many statutes criminalizing conduct are not
11 included in the Criminal Code; and

12 WHEREAS, there is a recognized need that criminal
13 penalties in statute should be examined to ensure that there is
14 a proper balancing of penalties; and

15 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislative council approved the
16 formation of the criminal justice reform subcommittee of the
17 courts, corrections and justice committee at the end of the
18 2013 interim; and

19 WHEREAS, the criminal justice reform subcommittee met in
20 November and December 2013 to hear briefings on the New Mexico
21 criminal justice system and on successful criminal justice
22 reform efforts in South Dakota and Texas; and

23 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislative council has approved
24 the criminal justice reform subcommittee to reconvene in April
25 2014, two months prior to the normal time for interim

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1 committees to meet, in order that the subcommittee might have
2 adequate time to work on a package of criminal justice reform
3 legislation;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
5 OF NEW MEXICO that the criminal justice reform subcommittee be
6 requested to report to the appropriate interim committee
7 examining criminal justice matters when that committee
8 reconvenes in June 2014; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee also report
10 to the appropriate interim committee examining criminal justice
11 matters in October 2014 with proposed legislation for the 2015
12 legislative session so that the committee can have adequate
13 time to consider such legislation for endorsement; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and to the
16 chair of the appropriate interim committee examining criminal
17 justice matters.