

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2008

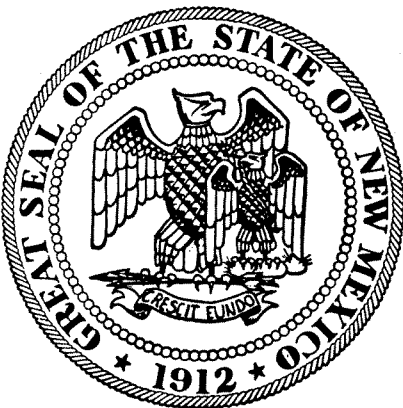
CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 8

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE AL PARK

REPRESENTATIVE GAIL CHASEY
REPRESENTATIVE RICK MIERA
REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS E. SWISSTACK
REPRESENTATIVE ANTONIO LUJAN
REPRESENTATIVE ERIC A. YOUNGBERG
REPRESENTATIVE SHERYL WILLIAMS STAPLETON
REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH CERVANTES
REPRESENTATIVE MIMI STEWART



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO
3 EMPLOY THE MISSOURI MODEL OF JUVENILE INCARCERATION AT THE J.
4 PAUL TAYLOR CENTER IN DONA ANA COUNTY.

5
6 WHEREAS, New Mexico, like all states, works diligently
7 but not always successfully, to rehabilitate young criminal
8 offenders, especially those who commit nonviolent crimes; and

9 WHEREAS, it is both cost-effective and morally right to
10 devote as much time, energy, money and other resources into
11 redirecting young offenders' behavior to more productive
12 paths; and

13 WHEREAS, while it is important for the public safety
14 that certain young offenders be physically separated from the
15 public and punished for their crimes, it is equally important
16 that the vast majority of young offenders be given every
17 opportunity to address and correct the issues in their lives
18 that contribute to their behavior; and

19 WHEREAS, Missouri's juvenile justice system is
20 recognized across the country as a model for low recidivism
21 rates and successful outcomes for youthful offenders; and

22 WHEREAS, the Missouri model relies on small facilities
23 and intensive group counseling and operates on the premise
24 that children are much more significantly influenced by peer
25 pressure than they are by adult direction and punishment; and

1 WHEREAS, the Missouri model creates peer groups of
2 juvenile offenders that gradually assume responsibility for
3 the behavior of each member in the group; and

4 WHEREAS, professional case managers, group therapy,
5 family counseling and transition services for all children
6 coming out of secure care are an integral part of the model;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico could benefit from employing the
9 Missouri model of juvenile justice and studying its results;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children,
12 youth and families department be requested to implement the
13 Missouri model of juvenile justice at the J. Paul Taylor
14 center in Dona Ana county and regularly report to the governor
15 and the legislature on the impact of that transition; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families.

S/ BEN LUJAN
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ STEPHEN R. ARIAS
STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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