

S 774 HAZARDOUS DUTY MEMBER COVERAGE PLAN

April 5, 2001

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 70

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE BILL 774, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2001.

Recruiting and retaining public sector corrections employees is a challenge today. This legislation attempts to address this challenge by offering a very attractive "early retirement plan" to corrections workers.

While well intentioned, this legislation is fundamentally flawed. First, any recruitment and retention plan based upon public employees retiring at any age after only 16 years and 8 months of employment flies in the face of logic and fairness to taxpayers, who must ultimately foot the bill for such a "golden parachute" provision.

Second, this early retirement law would require a substantial increase in employer contribution. Specifically, the corrections employer contribution would be equivalent to 38 percent of employee salary. This increase will cost millions of dollars each year to fund.

Finally, there is no evidence that the legislation is actuarially sound. Without a Public Employee Retirement Association actuarial study it would be irresponsible to sign any retirement legislation.

CS/S 788 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR TRIBAL EMPLOYEES

April 5, 2001

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 79

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE INDIAN AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 788, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2001.

This legislation allows Indian tribal entities to participate in New Mexico's unemployment insurance program. I have signed into law House Bill 619, which irreconcilably conflicts with the provisions of this bill.