

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R12-0931.01 Beth Treat x4340

**SJR12-044**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Grantham,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Becker,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 12-044**

101 **CONCERNING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARKANSAS VALLEY**  
102 **CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.**

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1           WHEREAS, The Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility opened in  
2 July 1987 and marks its 25th anniversary this year; and

3           WHEREAS, Located in Crowley County, the Arkansas Valley  
4 Correctional Facility was completed at a cost of \$43 million and is a  
5 mixed-custody correctional facility designed to hold 1,007 adult males;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, The facility employs 323 full-time staff members,  
8 over 70% of whom currently live within the Arkansas Valley, an increase  
9 of more than 50% from a year ago; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1           WHEREAS, The increase in local employment in the Arkansas  
2 Valley is a direct result of the facility's central role in absorbing staff from  
3 the decommissioning of the Fort Lyon facility; and

4           WHEREAS, The mission of the facility states that it "is a proud  
5 organization of excellence, whose legacy has withstood the test of time.  
6 We are committed to the safe and secure environment for all, working  
7 together as a cohesive team of highly trained correctional professionals  
8 who encourage offender participation in programmatic opportunities";  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, The facility offers a broad range of educational and  
11 vocational programs as well as mental health and recreational activities  
12 for offenders to make positive behavioral changes and become  
13 law-abiding citizens; and

14           WHEREAS, Not only does the Arkansas Valley Correctional  
15 Facility contribute millions of dollars each year to the economy of  
16 southeastern Colorado, but the entire state also benefits from the facility,  
17 which provides best practices in offender management as well as fiscal  
18 accountability to the citizens of Colorado; and

19           WHEREAS, Due to the dedication of many people, including  
20 former State Representative Elwood Gillis, former State Senators Jim  
21 Rizzuto, Ron Strahle, and Kathy Arnold, and community members Ralph  
22 Grantham, Dick Berg, and Shannon Torgler, the facility is now marking  
23 its 25th anniversary; now, therefore,

24           *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly*  
25 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

26           That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,  
27 recognize the Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility for its 25 years of  
28 service to the State of Colorado.

29           *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
30 to the Honorable John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado; Tom  
31 Clements, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections;  
32 former State Representative Elwood Gillis; former State Senator Ron  
33 Strahle; former State Senator Kathy Arnold; former State Senator and  
34 current President of Otero Junior College, Jim Rizzuto; and the members  
35 of the Board of County Commissioners for Crowley County.