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HOUSE MEMORIAL 39

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Joanne J. Ferrary and Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

and Angelica Rubio

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW MEXICO COALITION OF SEXUAL
ASSAULT PROGRAMS CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE CURRENT
STATE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS IN NEW MEXICO AND
REPORT PROGRESS ON THE PROCESSING OF BACKLOGGED SEXUAL ASSAULT
EXAMINATION KITS.

WHEREAS, according to the 2024 *New Mexico Crime
Victimization Report*, fifty-four percent of all New Mexicans
have experienced sexual assault or rape in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, of those surveyed, forty percent reported being
twelve years or younger at the time of the first incident; and

WHEREAS, twenty-eight percent of respondents to the *New
Mexico Crime Victimization Report* survey reported being injured
to the extent of receiving medical care; and

1 WHEREAS, respondents of color were more likely than white,
2 non-Hispanic respondents to have been sexually assaulted; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico has implemented processes to address
4 its sexual assault examination kit backlog and seeks to ensure
5 that another backlog does not form; and

6 WHEREAS, a sexual assault survivor has the opportunity to
7 receive information about the status of the sexual assault
8 survivor's sexual assault examination kit; and

9 WHEREAS, it has been ten years since the last sexual
10 assault examination kit backlog task force was convened;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
13 of public safety and the executive director of the New Mexico
14 coalition of sexual assault programs be requested to convene a
15 task force to study the current state of sexual assault
16 examination kits in New Mexico and report progress on the
17 processing of backlogged sexual assault examination kits; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of:

19 A. the secretary of public safety or the
20 secretary's designee;

21 B. the executive director of the New Mexico
22 coalition of sexual assault programs or the executive
23 director's designee;

24 C. the state auditor or the state auditor's
25 designee;

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1 D. the attorney general or the attorney general's
2 designee;

3 E. the director of a rape crisis center that serves
4 a community with a population of one hundred thousand or
5 greater;

6 F. the director of a rape crisis center that serves
7 a community with a population of less than one hundred
8 thousand;

9 G. the director of a sexual assault nurse examiner
10 program that serves a community with a population of one
11 hundred thousand or greater;

12 H. the director of a sexual assault nurse examiner
13 program that serves a community with a population of less than
14 one hundred thousand;

15 I. the director of the department of public
16 safety's forensic laboratories bureau;

17 J. the sexual assault kit initiative program
18 coordinator in the department of public safety;

19 K. the director of the Albuquerque police
20 department's crime laboratory; and

21 L. the statewide sexual assault nurse examiner
22 coordinator; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public safety
24 or the secretary's designee and the executive director of the
25 New Mexico coalition of sexual assault programs or the

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1 executive director's designee serve as co-chairs of the task
2 force; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force meet beginning
4 in July 2026; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report to the
6 interim legislative committee dealing with courts, corrections
7 and justice issues and to the legislative health and human
8 services committee with the task force's recommendations and
9 updates on:

10 A. statewide progress made in processing sexual
11 assault examination kits to meet the time line defined in
12 Section 30-9-21 NMSA 1978;

13 B. the adequacy of services available to survivors
14 who are affected by the processing of sexual assault
15 examination kits;

16 C. potential solutions identified by the task force
17 to any current challenges in the processing of sexual assault
18 examination kits; and

19 D. any legislation the task force recommends for
20 introduction; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the secretary of public safety, the executive
23 director of the New Mexico coalition of sexual assault
24 programs, the attorney general, the director of the department
25 of public safety's forensic laboratories bureau, the director

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1 of the Albuquerque police department's crime laboratory and the
2 statewide sexual assault nurse examiner coordinator.

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