

HOUSE MEMORIAL 42

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING STUDIES REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN DETENTION CENTERS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR
THE REUSE OF FORMER DETENTION FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, House Bill 9, introduced in the second session of the fifty-seventh legislature, would enact the Immigrant Safety Act and would prohibit public bodies from being party to agreements to detain individuals for federal civil immigration violations; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to three detention facilities that contract with United States immigration and customs enforcement, located in Cibola, Otero and Torrance counties; and

WHEREAS, the three existing detention centers together have more than seven hundred employees whose jobs may be lost

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1 if those detention centers are closed; and

2 WHEREAS, the closure of those detention centers would have
3 a severe negative impact on the local communities in which they
4 are located; and

5 WHEREAS, if the physical facilities comprising those
6 detention centers were used for different purposes, the adverse
7 employment and economic impact of closing those detention
8 centers would be reduced; and

9 WHEREAS, since 2000, twenty-one states have partially
10 closed or fully closed at least one correctional facility,
11 resulting in a trend of prison repurposing in which old prisons
12 are converted for community and commercial use;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the economic
15 development department and the workforce solutions department
16 be requested to study ways in which jobs related to the
17 existing detention facilities that contract with United States
18 immigration and customs enforcement might be replaced with new
19 employment opportunities; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and
21 families department, the corrections department and the health
22 care authority be requested to study ways in which the existing
23 detention facilities that contract with United States
24 immigration and customs enforcement might be used for other
25 purposes, including juvenile detention and patient health care;

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1 and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the economic development
3 department be requested to study ways in which the state might
4 assist communities adversely affected by the closure of
5 existing detention centers through the use of state programs,
6 including rural development funds, the innovation in state
7 government fund and preferences in state procurement; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the studies and
9 recommendations be delivered to the appropriate interim
10 legislative committees on or before October 1, 2026; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families,
13 the secretary of corrections, the secretary of economic
14 development, the secretary of health care authority and the
15 secretary of workforce solutions.

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