

HOUSE MEMORIAL 51

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 OR REPURPOSING OF 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 may have employees who could experience a change in job status if the

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1 existing contracts with United States immigration and customs
2 enforcement are discontinued; and

3 WHEREAS, the reliance on foreign private prison
4 corporations results in a lack of economic diversification and
5 a greater risk of economic instability; and

6 WHEREAS, if the physical facilities comprising those
7 detention centers were used for different purposes, those
8 facilities could meet broader community and state needs and
9 create sustainable rural economic development opportunities;
10 and

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

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

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

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1 purposes, including non-civil immigration detention, patient
2 health care and other purposes meeting community or state
3 needs; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the economic development
5 department be requested to study ways in which the state might
6 assist communities affected by the prohibition of civil
7 immigration detention through the use of state programs,
8 including rural development funds, the innovation in state
9 government fund and preferences in state procurement; and

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

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

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