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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**ORIGINAL DATE** 03/12/09

**SPONSOR** Nava **LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_ **HB** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT TITLE** Study New Mexico Prisoner Conditions **SJM** 70

**ANALYST** Weber

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non- Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	Indeterminate	Indeterminate			Recurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HJM 84

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Millions of tax dollars are spent annually on imprisoning criminals while recidivism rates remain high. At least one-half of all convicts are incarcerated for nonviolent crimes. Prison environments are often overcrowded, creating health hazards and facilitating the spread of disease. Violence is prevalent in many prisons, and many prisoners commit suicide. Most prisoners are under the age of thirty-five, and many are women and young adults. The cost of incarceration in New Mexico is at least ten times the cost of probation or parole. Effective programs and support structures can directly address recidivism and significantly reduce corrections costs. A disproportionate number of Hispanic, Native American and African American persons are incarcerated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Corrections Department be requested to convene a task force to study the condition of prisoners in New Mexico prisons and make recommendations for improvements, enlisting participation in the task force from the Workforce Solutions, Public Education, Higher Education and Human Services Departments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim committee by the fall of 2009; and

**Senate Joint Memorial 70 – Page 2**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretaries of Workforce Solutions, Public Education, Higher Education and Human Services.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The specific cost is indeterminate at this time but there would be per diem and mileage as well as production costs.

MW/mt