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HOUSE MEMORIAL 35

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Pamelya Herndon and Patricia Roybal Caballero

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETENTION FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OR FOR LATERAL HIRING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FROM OUT-OF-STATE AGENCIES TO NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

WHEREAS, crime rates in New Mexico for violent crime and property crime are significantly above national averages; and

WHEREAS, there are not enough law enforcement officers to adequately address crime in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and national calls for police reform have impacted law enforcement officers, adding to staff shortages; and

WHEREAS, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has called attention to the serious problem of a shortage of law

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1 enforcement officers during the 2022 legislative session with a
2 budget request of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000)
3 and an additional one thousand law enforcement officers across
4 the state; and

5 WHEREAS, retention and recruitment of new law enforcement
6 officers are also of critical importance; and

7 WHEREAS, a task force of interested parties, convened by
8 the department of public safety, could study incentives to
9 create a path for retention and recruitment of law enforcement
10 officers; and

11 WHEREAS, programs and initiatives, including the
12 implementation of a deferred retirement option plan, and
13 return-to-work provisions to allow an officer to continue to
14 draw pension benefits while working and contributing to law
15 enforcement pension funds or to delay retirement benefits for a
16 bigger payout later are options to be explored;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
19 of public safety be requested to convene a task force to assess
20 and make recommendations to provide incentives for law
21 enforcement officer retention for twenty-five years or for
22 lateral hiring of law enforcement officers from out-of-state
23 agencies to New Mexico law enforcement agencies; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
25 representatives from the Albuquerque police department, a small

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1 police department from a rural area, the New Mexico state
2 police, the New Mexico sheriffs' association, the senate, the
3 house of representatives, the New Mexico state police
4 association and three representatives from statewide community
5 organizations; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its
7 findings and recommendations to the appropriate legislative
8 interim committee that addresses courts, corrections and
9 justice issues by November 1, 2022; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the co-chairs of the legislative interim
12 committee that addresses courts, corrections and justice
13 issues, the chief of the Albuquerque police department, the
14 chief of a small police department from a rural area, chosen by
15 the task force, the acting chief of the New Mexico state
16 police, the executive director of the New Mexico sheriffs'
17 association, the governor, the president pro tempore of the
18 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and the
19 president of the New Mexico state police association.

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