

HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 239

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS; INCLUDING CANNABIS IN THE DEFINITION
OF "CONTRABAND"; PROHIBITING CANNABIS IN PLACES OF
IMPRISONMENT; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 30-22-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1976,
Chapter 15, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"30-22-14. BRINGING CONTRABAND INTO PLACES OF
IMPRISONMENT--PENALTIES--DEFINITIONS.--

A. Bringing contraband into a prison consists of
knowingly and voluntarily carrying, transporting or depositing
contraband onto the grounds of the penitentiary of New Mexico
or any other institution designated by the corrections
department for the confinement of adult prisoners. Whoever
commits bringing contraband into a prison is guilty of a third

1 degree felony.

2 B. Bringing contraband into a jail consists of
3 knowingly and voluntarily carrying contraband into the confines
4 of a county or municipal jail. Whoever commits bringing
5 contraband into a jail is guilty of a fourth degree felony.

6 C. As used in this section, "contraband" means:

7 (1) a deadly weapon, as defined in Section
8 30-1-12 NMSA 1978, or an essential component part thereof,
9 including ammunition, explosive devices and explosive
10 materials, but does not include a weapon carried by a peace
11 officer in the lawful discharge of duties;

12 (2) currency brought onto the grounds of the
13 institution for the purpose of transfer to a prisoner, but does
14 not include currency carried into areas designated by the
15 warden as areas for the deposit and receipt of currency for
16 credit to a prisoner's account before contact is made with the
17 prisoner;

18 (3) an alcoholic beverage;

19 (4) a controlled substance, as defined in the
20 Controlled Substances Act, or cannabis, as defined in the
21 Cannabis Regulation Act, but does not include a controlled
22 substance or medical cannabis carried into a prison or jail
23 through regular prison or jail channels and pursuant to the
24 direction or prescription of a [~~regularly~~] licensed physician;
25 or

.227884.1

1 (5) an electronic communication or recording
2 device brought onto the grounds of the institution for the
3 purpose of transfer to or use by a prisoner.

4 D. As used in this section, "electronic
5 communication or recording device" means any type of
6 instrument, device, machine or equipment that is designed to
7 transmit or receive telephonic, electronic, digital, cellular,
8 satellite or radio signals or communications or that is
9 designed to have sound or image recording abilities or any part
10 or component of such instrument, device, machine or equipment.
11 "Electronic communication or recording device" does not include
12 a device that is or will be used by prison or jail personnel in
13 the regular course of business or that is otherwise authorized
14 by the warden.

15 E. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use
16 of hearing aids, voice amplifiers or other equipment necessary
17 to aid prisoners who have documented hearing or speech
18 deficiencies or their visitors. Rules for such devices shall
19 be established by the warden or director of each jail,
20 detention center and prison."