

HOUSE MEMORIAL 36

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Patricia A. Lundstrom and Raymundo Lara and Angelica Rubio and
Harry Garcia and Eliseo Lee Alcon

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT AND THE WORKFORCE
SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY AND DETERMINE WAYS IN
WHICH RECENTLY RELEASED INMATES CAN BE BETTER SUPPORTED IN
THEIR EFFORTS TO REJOIN SOCIETY AND AVOID RECIDIVISM.

WHEREAS, as of February 1, 2019, there were six thousand
two hundred ninety-five men and seven hundred seventy-four
women incarcerated in New Mexico state correctional facilities;
and

WHEREAS, in 2018, an average of two hundred seventy-six
inmates were released from incarceration each week in New
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in May 2018, Bernalillo county opened a new
resource re-entry center to assist recently released inmates,
but that center serves only inmates being released from the

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1 Bernalillo county metropolitan detention center; and

2 WHEREAS, there are insufficient housing and support
3 services to assist former inmates upon their release from
4 incarceration; and

5 WHEREAS, former inmates have limited resources upon their
6 release from incarceration, and they may be released on the
7 street without the means to make their way to transitional
8 housing; and

9 WHEREAS, there are businesses that are willing to provide
10 employment opportunities for recently released inmates, but
11 there is an insufficient network to enable former inmates to
12 find suitable employment; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the second-highest recidivism rate
14 in the country, with one-half of its former inmates landing
15 back behind prison bars within three years; and

16 WHEREAS, the availability of transitional housing, mental
17 health and substance abuse counseling, support services and
18 employment opportunities will help to reduce rates of
19 recidivism;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections
22 department and the workforce solutions department be requested
23 to undertake a feasibility study during the 2019 interim of
24 what steps can be taken to assist newly released inmates to
25 find transitional housing and employment and to successfully

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1 reintegrate into society, thereby reducing the rate of
2 recidivism; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of corrections
4 and the secretary of workforce solutions present their
5 recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative
6 committees by October 1, 2019; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the secretary of corrections, the secretary of
9 workforce solutions and the co-chairs of the New Mexico
10 legislative council.