

The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2008

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE MEMORIAL 3, as amended

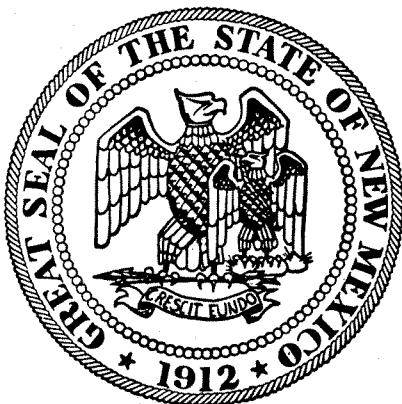
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Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE GAIL CHASEY

REPRESENTATIVE SHERYL WILLIAMS STAPLETON  
REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH CERVANTES  
REPRESENTATIVE MIMI STEWART  
REPRESENTATIVE W. KEN MARTINEZ  
REPRESENTATIVE ANTONIO "MOE" MAESTAS  
REPRESENTATIVE AL PARK  
REPRESENTATIVE DANICE PICRAUX



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS TO CONVENE A TASK  
3 FORCE TO IMPLEMENT AND DESIGN EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR THE  
4 FEMALE POPULATION IN THE CORRECTIONS SYSTEM.

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6 WHEREAS, pursuant to Senate Joint Memorial 48 passed by  
7 the 2002 legislature, the corrections department developed a  
8 task force to examine issues relating to female inmates and  
9 their increasing incarceration and recidivism rates; and

10 WHEREAS, the task force was directed to review  
11 classification policies and procedures; the use of  
12 administrative segregation; policies and procedures for  
13 protecting female inmates from sexual assault and harassment;  
14 adequacy of medical and mental health services; and policies  
15 and procedures concerning parole and discharge planning for  
16 female inmates; and

17 WHEREAS, the task force found that women are profoundly  
18 different from men in the criminal justice arena and have  
19 different pathways to crime that result from childhood and  
20 adult abuse, trauma, mental health issues and severe substance  
21 abuse; and

22 WHEREAS, the task force found that women have different  
23 offense patterns from men, different life and family  
24 circumstances, different learning and communication styles and  
25 different needs and strengths and thus require different

1 services, treatment and environments for their rehabilitation;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, national research shows that women in  
4 correctional facilities have fewer major misconduct reports  
5 than men and that misconduct by women is generally much less  
6 serious than misconduct by men; and

7 WHEREAS, the task force found that sexual misconduct by  
8 correctional staff is a significant and hidden problem in  
9 female correctional facilities at the national level and  
10 requires further evaluation in New Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, the task force found great potential for  
12 improvement in the treatment and rehabilitation of women  
13 inmates if New Mexico embraces the national research on the  
14 differences between female and male inmates and implements the  
15 national guidelines for gender-responsive facilities and  
16 services; and

17 WHEREAS, the task force resolved to take immediate and  
18 long-term actions to address its findings on how to more  
19 effectively rehabilitate women inmates and respond to issues  
20 specific to women in the corrections system; and

21 WHEREAS, many of the actions proposed by the task force  
22 have not been implemented;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary  
25 of corrections assemble a task force consisting of the warden

1 of the New Mexico women's correctional facility in Grants, the  
2 warden of the Camino Nuevo correctional center,  
3 representatives from the corrections corporation of America,  
4 correctional medical services, the adult probation and parole  
5 division of the corrections department, the children, youth  
6 and families department, the New Mexico women's justice  
7 project, the commission on the status of women, the  
8 archdiocese of Santa Fe, the judiciary, central New Mexico  
9 community college, a rape crisis center, the New Mexico  
10 district attorneys association, community practitioners in  
11 behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, former women  
12 inmates who have completed their sentences, including any  
13 probation or parole, and other interested and appropriate  
14 parties to implement the recommendations of the Senate Joint  
15 Memorial 48 task force; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force review the  
17 environment, programs, services, policies and procedures at  
18 the two female correctional facilities, including intake,  
19 classification, screening and assessment, discharge planning,  
20 vocational skill development, mental health, behavioral health  
21 and substance abuse services, interpersonal violence and  
22 trauma, parenting and family connections, visitation, gender-  
23 informed training protocols, staff training, sexual misconduct  
24 and compliance with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act of  
25 2003; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force assist  
2 in implementing the recommendations of the national institute  
3 of corrections and work with a representative of the  
4 institute, if feasible; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force encourage  
6 community collaborations and partnerships to create innovative  
7 and unique solutions for the female inmate population and to  
8 improve the readiness of women to reintegrate back into their  
9 communities; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force  
11 report to the appropriate interim legislative committee during  
12 the 2008 interim on the progress of the task force; the  
13 implementation of recommendations made by the 2002 Senate  
14 Joint Memorial 48 task force and of the national guidelines  
15 for gender-responsive facilities and services; and any further  
16 findings, recommendations and solutions that may be effective  
17 for the female prison population; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the secretary of corrections, the warden of the  
20 women's correctional facility in Grants, the warden of the  
21 Camino Nuevo correctional center, the corrections corporation  
22 of America, the secretary of children, youth and families, the  
23 administrative office of the courts, the second judicial  
24 district attorney, the New Mexico women's justice project, the  
25 commission on the status of women, the archdiocese of Santa Fe

1 and central New Mexico community college.

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S/ BEN LUJAN  
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ STEPHEN R. ARIAS  
STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES