

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, 2nd Session

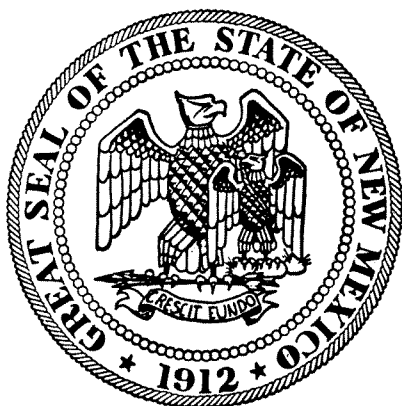
LAWS 2008

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 63

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE ANTONIO "MOE" MAESTAS



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE THE
3 TASK FORCE ON EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS FOR PERSONS WITH CRIMINAL
4 CONVICTIONS CREATED IN THE 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BY HOUSE
5 MEMORIAL 41 AND SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 4.
6

7 WHEREAS, the legislature created the task force on
8 employment barriers for persons with criminal convictions in
9 the first session of the forty-eighth legislature; and

10 WHEREAS, the work of that task force is not yet complete
11 but remains critically important; and

12 WHEREAS, the task force was created in order to improve
13 the effectiveness of facilitating the reentry of persons with
14 criminal convictions into communities, reducing the incidence
15 of recidivism and helping those with criminal convictions
16 attain skills and connections to achieve a successful reentry
17 into their communities; and

18 WHEREAS, the task force should review clearance
19 regulations for all state agencies and local public bodies to
20 evaluate whether existing barriers to successful reentry into
21 the workplace are related to the safety, trust and
22 responsibility required at a job and to determine whether a
23 less restrictive approach could protect the public while
24 preserving employment opportunities; and

25 WHEREAS, the task force should also develop and

1 administer, in coordination with the New Mexico municipal
2 league and the New Mexico association of counties, a survey to
3 obtain information from local public bodies, community
4 colleges and state-funded universities on how their hiring
5 practices could affect persons with criminal convictions; and

6 WHEREAS, the task force should review admissions and
7 other community college and state-funded university
8 requirements to ensure that persons with criminal convictions
9 are not prohibited from attending or taking classes, or
10 selecting career paths; and

11 WHEREAS, the task force should investigate and develop a
12 proposal for a New Mexico civic justice conservation corps and
13 community custody program to provide full-time paid
14 opportunities for people transitioning out of prison; and

15 WHEREAS, the task force should also study the
16 effectiveness of establishing an independent office of
17 advocacy that is administratively attached to the workforce
18 solutions department and the possibility of establishing a
19 commission to oversee the office of advocacy; and

20 WHEREAS, the task force should, if feasible, host a
21 public sector job fair in collaboration with the state
22 personnel office, the corrections department, the city of
23 Albuquerque and Bernalillo county to assist persons with
24 criminal convictions in obtaining employment and pursuing
25 career paths;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
3 of workforce solutions be encouraged to continue to convene,
4 staff and participate with the task force on employment
5 barriers for persons with criminal convictions; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
7 to present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate
8 interim legislative committee no later than November 1, 2008,
9 including its recommendations on lifting statutory barriers to
10 public employment, waiver or review mechanisms available to
11 persons with convictions and reforms and changes that may be
12 adopted to remove barriers and enable offenders to demonstrate
13 their rehabilitation; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the secretary of workforce solutions, current
16 task force participants, the superintendent of regulation and
17 licensing and the director of the personnel board.

S/ BEN LUJAN
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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