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HOUSE BILL

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

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

AN ACT

RELATING TO CAPITAL FELONY SENTENCING; REINSTATING THE DEATH PENALTY; PROVIDING SENTENCING PROCEDURES; PROVIDING MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES; REQUIRING AUTOMATIC REVIEW OF CONVICTION AND SENTENCE BY THE SUPREME COURT; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR EXECUTION; PROHIBITING EXECUTION OF CERTAIN PERSONS; REQUIRING EXECUTION BY LETHAL INJECTION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 31-18-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1979, Chapter 150, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"31-18-14. SENTENCING AUTHORITY--CAPITAL FELONIES.--

A. When a defendant has been convicted of a capital felony, the defendant shall be punished by life imprisonment; life imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole; or death. The punishment shall be imposed after a sentencing

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1 hearing separate from the trial or guilty plea proceeding. If
2 the defendant has not reached the age of eighteen years at the
3 time of the commission of the capital felony for which the
4 defendant was convicted, the defendant may be sentenced to life
5 imprisonment or life imprisonment without the possibility of
6 release or parole but shall not be punished by death.

7 B. In the event that the sentence of death in a
8 capital felony case is held to be unconstitutional or otherwise
9 invalidated by the supreme court or the United States supreme
10 court, the person previously sentenced to death for a capital
11 felony shall be sentenced to [~~life imprisonment or~~] life
12 imprisonment without possibility of release or parole."

13 SECTION 2. Section 31-18-23 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1994,
14 Chapter 24, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

15 "31-18-23. THREE VIOLENT FELONY CONVICTIONS--MANDATORY
16 LIFE IMPRISONMENT--EXCEPTION.--

17 A. When a defendant is convicted of a third violent
18 felony, and each violent felony conviction is part of a
19 separate transaction or occurrence, and at least the third
20 violent felony conviction is in New Mexico, the defendant
21 shall, in addition to the sentence imposed for the third
22 violent felony conviction when that sentence does not result in
23 death, be punished by a sentence of life imprisonment. The
24 life imprisonment sentence shall be subject to parole pursuant
25 to the provisions of Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978.

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1 B. The sentence of life imprisonment shall be
2 imposed after a sentencing hearing, separate from the trial or
3 guilty plea proceeding resulting in the third violent felony
4 conviction, pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-24 NMSA
5 1978.

6 C. For the purpose of this section, a violent
7 felony conviction incurred by a defendant before the defendant
8 reaches the age of eighteen shall not count as a violent felony
9 conviction.

10 D. When a defendant has a felony conviction from
11 another state, the felony conviction shall be considered a
12 violent felony for the purposes of the Criminal Sentencing Act
13 if that crime would be considered a violent felony in New
14 Mexico.

15 E. As used in the Criminal Sentencing Act:

16 (1) "great bodily harm" means an injury to the
17 person that creates a high probability of death or that causes
18 serious disfigurement or that results in permanent loss or
19 impairment of the function of any member or organ of the body;
20 and

21 (2) "violent felony" means:

22 (a) murder in the first or second
23 degree, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

24 (b) shooting at or from a motor vehicle
25 resulting in great bodily harm, as provided in Subsection B of

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1 Section 30-3-8 NMSA 1978;

2 (c) kidnapping resulting in [~~great~~
3 ~~bodily harm~~] physical injury or a sexual offense inflicted upon
4 the victim by the victim's captor, as provided in Subsection B
5 of Section 30-4-1 NMSA 1978;

6 (d) criminal sexual penetration, as
7 provided in Subsection C or D or Paragraph (5) or (6) of
8 Subsection E of Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978; and

9 (e) robbery while armed with a deadly
10 weapon resulting in great bodily harm as provided in Section
11 30-16-2 NMSA 1978 [~~and Subsection A of Section 30-1-12 NMSA~~
12 ~~1978~~]."

13 SECTION 3. Section 31-20A-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1979,
14 Chapter 150, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

15 "31-20A-2. CAPITAL FELONY--DETERMINATION OF SENTENCE.--

16 A. If a jury finds, beyond a reasonable doubt, that
17 one or more aggravating circumstances exist, as enumerated in
18 Subsection A of Section 31-20A-5 NMSA 1978, the defendant shall
19 be sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of
20 release or parole. If the jury does not [~~make the finding~~]
21 find that one or more of the aggravating circumstances
22 enumerated in that subsection exist, the defendant shall be
23 sentenced to life imprisonment.

24 B. If a jury finds, beyond a reasonable doubt, that
25 one or more aggravating circumstances exist, as enumerated in

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1 Subsection B of Section 31-20A-5 NMSA 1978, the jury shall
2 determine whether the defendant shall be sentenced to death or
3 life imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole.
4 The determination pursuant to this subsection shall be guided
5 by the following considerations:

6 (1) whether aggravating circumstances exist as
7 enumerated in Subsection B of Section 31-20A-5 NMSA 1978;

8 (2) whether mitigating circumstances exist as
9 enumerated in Section 8 of this 2024 act; and

10 (3) whether other mitigating circumstances
11 exist.

12 C. With respect to a defendant who was younger than
13 eighteen years at the time of commission of the capital felony
14 for which the defendant was convicted, if a jury finds that an
15 aggravating circumstance as enumerated in Subsection A or B of
16 Section 31-20A-5 NMSA 1978 exists, the sentencing court or jury
17 shall consider the defendant's age at the time of commission of
18 the capital felony as a mitigating factor and shall determine
19 whether to sentence the defendant to life imprisonment or life
20 imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole."

21 SECTION 4. Section 31-20A-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1979,
22 Chapter 150, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

23 "31-20A-5. AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.--

24 A. The aggravating circumstances to be considered
25 by the sentencing court or jury pursuant to the provisions of

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1 Subsection A of Section 31-20A-2 NMSA 1978 are limited to the
2 following:

3 ~~[A. the victim was a peace officer who was acting~~
4 ~~in the lawful discharge of an official duty when he was~~
5 ~~murdered;~~

6 ~~B.]~~ (1) the murder was committed with intent
7 to kill in the commission of or attempt to commit [~~kidnaping~~
8 kidnapping, criminal sexual contact of a minor or criminal
9 sexual penetration;

10 ~~[G.]~~ (2) the murder was committed with the
11 intent to kill by the defendant while attempting to escape from
12 a penal institution of New Mexico;

13 ~~[D.]~~ (3) while incarcerated in a penal
14 institution in New Mexico, the defendant, with the intent to
15 kill, murdered a person who was at the time incarcerated in or
16 lawfully on the premises of a penal institution in New Mexico;
17 ~~[As used in this subsection, "penal institution" includes~~
18 ~~facilities under the jurisdiction of the corrections and~~
19 ~~criminal rehabilitation department and county and municipal~~
20 ~~jails;~~

21 ~~E. while incarcerated in a penal institution in New~~
22 ~~Mexico, the defendant, with the intent to kill, murdered an~~
23 ~~employee of the corrections and criminal rehabilitation~~
24 ~~department;~~

25 ~~F.]~~ (4) the capital felony was committed for

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1 hire; and

2 [G-] (5) the capital felony was murder of a
3 witness to a crime or any person likely to become a witness to
4 a crime, for the purpose of preventing report of the crime or
5 testimony in any criminal proceeding or for retaliation for the
6 victim having testified in any criminal proceeding.

7 B. The aggravating circumstances to be considered
8 by the sentencing court or jury pursuant to the provisions of
9 Subsection B of Section 31-20A-2 NMSA 1978 are limited to the
10 following:

11 (1) the victim was a peace officer who was
12 acting in the lawful discharge of an official duty when the
13 peace officer was murdered;

14 (2) the victim was a child under the age of
15 eighteen years;

16 (3) while incarcerated in a penal institution
17 in New Mexico, the defendant, with the intent to kill, murdered
18 an employee or a contractor of the penal institution; and

19 (4) the defendant attempted to harm or kill a
20 peace officer who was acting in the lawful discharge of an
21 official duty.

22 C. For the purpose of this section, "penal
23 institution" includes facilities under the jurisdiction of the
24 corrections department and county and municipal jails."

25 SECTION 5. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is

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1 enacted to read:

2 "[NEW MATERIAL] CAPITAL FELONY--SENTENCING PROCEDURE.--

3 A. At the conclusion of all capital felony cases
4 heard by a jury, and after proper charge from the court and
5 argument of counsel, the jury shall retire to consider a
6 verdict of guilty or not guilty without any consideration of
7 punishment. In nonjury capital felony cases, the judge shall
8 first consider a finding of guilty or not guilty without any
9 consideration of punishment.

10 B. Upon a verdict by the jury or judge that the
11 defendant is guilty of a capital felony, or upon a plea of
12 guilty to a capital felony, the court shall conduct a separate
13 sentencing proceeding to determine whether the defendant should
14 be sentenced to life imprisonment, life imprisonment without
15 the possibility of release or parole, or, if applicable, death.
16 In a jury trial, the sentencing proceeding shall be conducted
17 as soon as practicable by the original trial judge before
18 either the original trial jury or a jury empaneled for the
19 purpose of sentencing. In a nonjury trial, the sentencing
20 proceeding shall be conducted as soon as practicable by the
21 original trial judge or jury. In the case of a plea of guilty
22 to a capital felony, the sentencing proceeding shall be
23 conducted as soon as practicable by the original trial judge or
24 by a jury upon demand of a party.

25 C. In the sentencing proceeding, all evidence

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1 admitted at the trial shall be considered and additional
2 evidence may be presented as to the circumstances of the crime
3 and as to any aggravating or mitigating circumstances, pursuant
4 to Section 31-20A-5 NMSA 1978 and Section 8 of this 2024 act.

5 D. In a jury sentencing proceeding, the judge shall
6 give appropriate instructions and allow arguments and the jury
7 shall retire to determine the punishment to be imposed. In a
8 nonjury sentencing proceeding, or upon a plea of guilty where
9 no jury has been demanded, the judge shall allow argument and
10 determine the punishment to be imposed."

11 SECTION 6. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
12 enacted to read:

13 "[NEW MATERIAL] CAPITAL FELONY CASE HEARD BY JURY--
14 SENTENCING HEARING--EXPLANATION BY COURT TO JURY.--At the
15 beginning of a sentencing hearing for a capital felony case,
16 subsequent to a verdict by the jury that the defendant is
17 guilty of a capital felony, the court shall explain to the jury
18 that a sentence of life imprisonment means that the defendant
19 shall serve thirty years of the sentence before the defendant
20 becomes eligible for a parole hearing, as provided in Section
21 31-21-10 NMSA 1978."

22 SECTION 7. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
23 enacted to read:

24 "[NEW MATERIAL] COURT SENTENCING.--In a jury sentencing
25 proceeding in which the jury unanimously finds beyond a

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1 reasonable doubt and specifies at least one of the aggravating
2 circumstances enumerated in Subsection B of Section 31-20A-5
3 NMSA 1978 and unanimously specifies the sentence of death
4 pursuant to Subsection B of Section 31-20A-2 NMSA 1978, the
5 court shall sentence the defendant to death. Where a sentence
6 of death is not unanimously specified or the jury does not make
7 the required finding or is unable to reach a unanimous verdict,
8 the court shall sentence the defendant to life imprisonment
9 without the possibility of release or parole in accordance with
10 Section 31-20A-2 NMSA 1978. In a nonjury sentencing proceeding
11 and in cases involving a plea of guilty, where no jury has been
12 demanded, the judge shall determine and impose the sentence;
13 provided that the judge shall not impose the sentence of death
14 except upon a finding beyond a reasonable doubt and
15 specification of at least one of the aggravating circumstances
16 enumerated in Subsection B of Section 31-20A-5 NMSA 1978."

17 SECTION 8. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
18 enacted to read:

19 "[NEW MATERIAL] MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.--The mitigating
20 circumstances to be considered by the sentencing court or the
21 jury pursuant to the provisions of Subsection B of Section
22 31-20A-2 NMSA 1978 shall include but not be limited to the
23 following:

24 A. the defendant has no significant history of
25 prior criminal activity;

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1 B. the defendant acted under duress or under the
2 domination of another person;

3 C. the defendant's capacity to appreciate the
4 criminality of the defendant's own conduct or to conform the
5 defendant's own conduct to the requirements of the law was
6 impaired;

7 D. the defendant was under the influence of mental
8 or emotional disturbance;

9 E. the victim was a willing participant in the
10 defendant's conduct;

11 F. the defendant acted under circumstances that
12 tended to justify, excuse or reduce the crime;

13 G. the defendant is likely to be rehabilitated;

14 H. the defendant cooperated with authorities; and

15 I. the defendant's age."

16 SECTION 9. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
17 enacted to read:

18 "[NEW MATERIAL] REVIEW OF JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE.--

19 A. A judgment of conviction and sentence of death
20 shall be automatically reviewed by the supreme court.

21 B. In addition to other matters on appeal, the
22 supreme court shall rule on the validity of the sentence of
23 death.

24 C. A sentence of death shall not be imposed if:

25 (1) the evidence does not support the finding

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1 of a statutory aggravating circumstance;

2 (2) the evidence supports a finding that the
3 mitigating circumstances outweigh the aggravating
4 circumstances;

5 (3) the sentence of death was imposed under
6 the influence of passion, prejudice or any other arbitrary
7 factor; or

8 (4) the sentence of death is excessive or
9 disproportionate to the penalty imposed in similar cases,
10 considering both the crime and the defendant.

11 D. No error in the sentencing proceeding shall
12 result in the reversal of the conviction for a capital felony.
13 If the trial court is reversed on appeal because of error only
14 in the sentencing proceeding, the supreme court shall remand
15 solely for a new sentencing proceeding. The new sentencing
16 proceeding ordered and mandated shall apply only to the issue
17 of punishment.

18 E. In cases of remand for a new sentencing
19 proceeding, all exhibits and a transcript of all testimony and
20 other evidence admitted in the prior trial and sentencing
21 proceeding shall be admissible in the new sentencing
22 proceeding, and:

23 (1) if the sentencing proceeding was before a
24 jury, a new jury shall be impaneled for the new sentencing
25 proceeding;

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1 (2) if the sentencing proceeding was before a
2 judge, the original trial judge shall conduct the new
3 sentencing proceeding; or

4 (3) if the sentencing proceeding was before a
5 judge and the original trial judge is unable or unavailable to
6 conduct a new sentencing proceeding, another judge shall be
7 designated to conduct the new sentencing proceeding and the
8 parties are entitled to disqualify the new judge on the grounds
9 set forth in Section 38-3-9 NMSA 1978 before the newly
10 designated judge exercises any discretion."

11 SECTION 10. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
12 enacted to read:

13 "[NEW MATERIAL] PROHIBITION AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT OF
14 PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY--PRESENTENCING
15 HEARING.--

16 A. As used in this section, "intellectual
17 disability" means significantly below average general
18 intellectual functioning existing concurrently with deficits in
19 adaptive behavior. An intelligence quotient of seventy or
20 below on a reliably administered intelligence quotient test
21 shall be presumptive evidence of intellectual disability.

22 B. A sentence of death shall not be imposed on any
23 person with an intellectual disability.

24 C. Upon a motion of the defense requesting a ruling
25 that a sentence of death be precluded pursuant to this section,

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1 the court shall hold a hearing, prior to conducting the
2 sentencing proceeding pursuant to Section 7 of this 2024 act.
3 If the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
4 the defendant has an intellectual disability, it shall sentence
5 the defendant to life imprisonment without the possibility of
6 release or parole. A ruling by the court that evidence of
7 diminished intelligence introduced by the defendant does not
8 preclude a sentence of death pursuant to this section shall not
9 restrict the defendant's opportunity to introduce the evidence
10 at the sentencing proceeding or to argue that the evidence
11 should be given mitigating significance. If the sentencing
12 proceeding is conducted before a jury, the jury shall not be
13 informed of any ruling denying a defendant's motion pursuant to
14 this section."

15 SECTION 11. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
16 enacted to read:

17 "[NEW MATERIAL] WARRANT OF EXECUTION UPON JUDGMENT OF
18 DEATH--TIME OF EXECUTION.--When a judgment of death is rendered
19 by any court of competent jurisdiction, a warrant signed by the
20 judge and attested by the court clerk under the seal of the
21 court shall be drawn and delivered to the sheriff. The warrant
22 shall state the conviction and judgment and appoint a day on
23 which the judgment is to be executed, which shall not be less
24 than sixty nor more than ninety days from the date of judgment,
25 and shall direct the sheriff to deliver the defendant, at a

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1 time specified in the warrant but not more than ten days from
2 the date of judgment, to the warden of the penitentiary of New
3 Mexico for execution."

4 SECTION 12. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
5 enacted to read:

6 "[NEW MATERIAL] JUDGE TO TRANSMIT STATEMENT OF
7 CONVICTION.--The judge of a court in which a defendant was
8 convicted and sentenced to death shall, immediately after the
9 conviction, transmit to the governor, by mail or otherwise, a
10 statement of the conviction and judgment."

11 SECTION 13. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
12 enacted to read:

13 "[NEW MATERIAL] GOVERNOR MAY SUSPEND EXECUTION.--Only the
14 governor may suspend the execution of a judgment of death,
15 except that the warden of the penitentiary of New Mexico to
16 whom a defendant is delivered for execution may suspend the
17 execution of a judgment of death in accordance with the
18 provisions of Sections 14 through 18 of this 2024 act."

19 SECTION 14. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
20 enacted to read:

21 "[NEW MATERIAL] INSANITY OF DEFENDANT--HOW DETERMINED.--
22 If, after a defendant is delivered to the warden for execution,
23 there is good reason to believe that the defendant, under
24 judgment of death, has become insane, the warden shall call
25 that fact to the attention of the district attorney of the

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1 county in which the state penitentiary is situated. The
2 district attorney shall immediately file in the district court
3 of the county a petition, stating the conviction and judgment
4 and the fact that the defendant is believed to be insane and
5 asking that the court inquire into the question of the
6 defendant's sanity. It shall be the duty of the district court
7 to inquire into the question and render a judgment."

8 SECTION 15. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
9 enacted to read:

10 "[NEW MATERIAL] DUTY OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPON INQUIRY AND
11 HEARING.--The district attorney shall attend a hearing provided
12 for in Sections 14 and 18 of this 2024 act, and may produce
13 witnesses before the court, for which purpose the district
14 attorney may issue process in the same manner as process is
15 issued for witnesses to testify before the grand jury. Failure
16 to comply with process issued may be punished in a like manner
17 as failure to comply with process issued by the court."

18 SECTION 16. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
19 enacted to read:

20 "[NEW MATERIAL] ORDER OF COURT COMMITTING INSANE PERSON TO
21 HOSPITAL.--The court shall make and cause to be entered an
22 order reciting the fact of the inquiry made pursuant to Section
23 14 of this 2024 act and its result. If it is found that the
24 defendant is insane, the order shall direct that the defendant
25 be taken to the New Mexico behavioral health institute at Las

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1 Vegas and kept there in safe confinement until the defendant's
2 sanity is restored."

3 SECTION 17. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
4 enacted to read:

5 "[NEW MATERIAL] FINDINGS OF INQUIRY--DUTIES OF WARDEN--
6 PROCEDURE WHEN SANITY IS RESTORED.--If it is found that the
7 defendant is sane, the warden shall proceed to execute the
8 judgment as specified in the warrant. If it is found that the
9 defendant is insane, the warden shall suspend the execution and
10 transmit a certified copy of the order provided for in Section
11 16 of this 2024 act to the governor and deliver the defendant,
12 together with a certified copy of the order, to the
13 superintendent of the New Mexico behavioral health institute at
14 Las Vegas. When the defendant's sanity is restored, the
15 superintendent of the institute shall certify that fact to the
16 governor, who shall then issue to the warden the governor's
17 warrant appointing a day for the execution of the judgment."

18 SECTION 18. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
19 enacted to read:

20 "[NEW MATERIAL] PROCEEDINGS WHEN FEMALE DEFENDANT MAY BE
21 PREGNANT--DUTY OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY.--

22 A. If there is good reason to believe that a female
23 defendant who was sentenced to death is pregnant, the warden
24 shall call that fact to the attention of the district attorney
25 of the county in which the state penitentiary is situated. The

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1 district attorney shall immediately file in the district court
2 of the county a petition, stating the conviction and judgment
3 and the fact that the defendant may be pregnant and asking that
4 the court inquire into the question of the defendant's
5 pregnancy. It shall be the duty of the district court to
6 inquire into the question and render a judgment. The court may
7 summon three disinterested physicians of good standing in their
8 profession to inquire into the alleged pregnancy. The
9 physicians shall examine the defendant, hear any evidence that
10 may be produced and make a written finding and certificate of
11 their conclusion, to be approved by the court. The provisions
12 of Section 15 of this 2024 act apply to the proceedings
13 provided in this subsection.

14 B. If it is found that the female defendant is not
15 pregnant, the warden shall execute the judgment. If it is
16 found that the female defendant is pregnant, the warden shall
17 suspend the execution of the judgment and transmit a certified
18 copy of the finding and certificate to the governor. When the
19 governor receives from the warden a certificate that the female
20 defendant is no longer pregnant, the governor shall issue to
21 the warden a warrant appointing a day for the execution of the
22 judgment."

23 SECTION 19. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
24 enacted to read:

25 "[NEW MATERIAL] JUDGMENT OF DEATH REMAINING IN FORCE BUT

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1 NOT EXECUTED--NO APPEAL FROM ORDER OF COURT.--If for any reason
2 a judgment of death has not been executed and remains in force,
3 the court in which the conviction is had, on the application of
4 the district attorney of the county in which the conviction is
5 had, shall order the defendant to be brought before it, or if
6 the defendant is at large, a warrant for the defendant's
7 apprehension may be issued. When the defendant is brought
8 before the court, the court shall inquire into the facts and,
9 if no legal reason exists against the execution of the
10 judgment, shall issue an order that the warden of the
11 penitentiary of New Mexico, to whom the sheriff is directed to
12 deliver the defendant, execute the judgment at a specified
13 time. The warden shall execute the judgment accordingly.
14 There is no appeal from an order, as provided herein, directing
15 and fixing the time for the execution of a judgment."

16 SECTION 20. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
17 enacted to read:

18 "[NEW MATERIAL] PUNISHMENT OF DEATH--HOW INFLICTED.--The
19 manner of inflicting punishment of death shall be by
20 administration of an intravenous injection of a lethal
21 substance into the convicted person in a quantity sufficient to
22 cause death. Any reference in the statutes relating to the
23 means of execution shall be construed to mean execution by
24 lethal injection as provided in this section."

25 SECTION 21. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is

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1 enacted to read:

2 "[NEW MATERIAL] PLACE OF EXECUTION--DIRECTION OF WARDEN.--

3 The warden of the penitentiary of New Mexico shall provide a
4 suitable and efficient room or place, closed from public view,
5 within the walls of the penitentiary of New Mexico and therein
6 provide all necessary appliances requisite for carrying into
7 execution the sentence of death. In each individual case of a
8 sentence of death pronounced in this state, the sentence of
9 death shall be executed under the direction of the warden in
10 the room or place provided for that purpose."

11 SECTION 22. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
12 enacted to read:

13 "[NEW MATERIAL] WHERE JUDGMENT IS EXECUTED--WHO MAY BE
14 PRESENT.--A sentence of death shall be executed within the
15 walls of the penitentiary of New Mexico, and the execution
16 shall be under the supervision and direction of the warden of
17 the penitentiary. The warden of the penitentiary of New Mexico
18 shall be present at the execution and shall invite the presence
19 of a physician, the attorney general and at least twelve
20 reputable citizens to be selected by the warden. The warden
21 shall, at the request of the defendant, permit such religious
22 leaders or teachers, not exceeding two, as the defendant may
23 name, and any person, relative or friend, not to exceed five,
24 to be present at the execution, together with such peace
25 officers as the warden may think expedient, to witness the

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1 execution. No persons, other than those mentioned in this
2 section, shall be present at the execution, nor shall any
3 person under the age of eighteen be allowed to witness the
4 execution. The identities of the persons designated to conduct
5 the execution are confidential and not subject to public
6 disclosure."

7 SECTION 23. A new section of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978 is
8 enacted to read:

9 "[NEW MATERIAL] RETURN BY WARDEN.--After the execution,
10 the warden shall make a return upon the death warrant to the
11 court that rendered the judgment, showing the time, mode and
12 manner in which the warrant was executed."

13 SECTION 24. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act
14 apply only to capital felonies committed on or after the
15 effective date of this act. Nothing contained in the
16 provisions of this act shall be construed to alter in any way
17 the execution of a sentence of death imposed for a crime
18 committed before the effective date of this act.