# HOUSE MEMORIAL 63

# 54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

### INTRODUCED BY

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## A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS, THE SECRETARY OF
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE SECRETARY OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO REPORT ON COURSEWORK TAUGHT WITHIN
THE CORRECTIONS SYSTEM THAT RESULTS IN A CERTIFICATE OR
ASSOCIATE OR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE.

WHEREAS, educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals contribute to post-incarceration success and lower recidivism rates; and

WHEREAS, the corrections department is responsible for the development, implementation and management of educational programming opportunities for incarcerated individuals; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico sentencing commission reports that the current inmate population is approximately six thousand eight hundred persons; and

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WHEREAS, the New Mexico sentencing commission reports a recidivism rate of forty-six percent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
of corrections, the secretary of higher education and the
secretary of workforce solutions be requested to convene a
working group to report on coursework taught within the
corrections system that results in a certificate or associate
or baccalaureate degree and any clearly defined barriers or
opportunities faced by students in education programs offered
by the corrections department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested to make a report of its findings and recommendations to the appropriate legislative interim committees that study issues pertaining to criminal justice; and

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

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