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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/09/09

SPONSOR Chasey LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 12

SHORT TITLE Barriers To Convicted Felon Housing SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Corrections Department (CD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial would request the New Mexico congressional delegation to support and promote measures to eliminate barriers to public housing for convicted felons and certain misdemeanants.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications for this Joint Memorial.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The CD notes that convicted felony and misdemeanor offenders need affordable places to live, or they are likely to commit new crimes. The Governor's Prison Reform Task Force and the Department fully support any efforts that will help prevent offenders from reoffending and that will help them become productive, law abiding citizens. Ultimately, public housing that is readily available to offenders is very likely to reduce the Department's prison population and probation/parole caseloads.

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The memorial states that:

- Persons who have had criminal arrest, conviction and extended periods of incarceration experience many collateral or indirect consequences as a result of their conviction and incarceration.
- These consequences result in the inability of convicted felons and certain misdemeanants to reenter society and establish fruitful lives after they have served their time.
- One of the most egregious of these consequences is a provision of federal law that bars many convicted felons and certain misdemeanants from public housing and federally assisted housing programs.
- The private housing market is not an option for many released felons and misdemeanants due to lack of financial resources and an inability to produce personal references necessary to compete and secure housing in the private market.
- A basic and immediate need of released felons and misdemeanants is the need to find a place to live.
- Released felons and misdemeanants who are unable to find a place to live are at higher risk of homelessness, relapse and recidivism.

GH/mt