

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONVENE A TASK
3 FORCE TO ASSESS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROVIDE
4 INCENTIVES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETENTION FOR TWENTY-
5 FIVE YEARS OR FOR LATERAL HIRING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
6 FROM OUT-OF-STATE AGENCIES TO NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT
7 AGENCIES.

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9 WHEREAS, crime rates in New Mexico for violent crime and
10 property crime are significantly above national averages; and

11 WHEREAS, there are not enough law enforcement officers
12 to adequately address crime in New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, national
14 calls for police reform, statutory changes and local law
15 enforcement agreements with the United States department of
16 justice have impacted law enforcement officers, adding to
17 staff shortages; and

18 WHEREAS, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has called
19 attention to the serious problem of a shortage of law
20 enforcement officers during the 2022 legislative session with
21 a budget request of one hundred million dollars
22 (\$100,000,000) and an additional one thousand law enforcement
23 officers across the state; and

24 WHEREAS, retention and recruitment of new law
25 enforcement officers are also of critical importance; and

1 WHEREAS, a task force of interested parties, convened by
2 the department of public safety, could study incentives to
3 create a path for retention and recruitment of law
4 enforcement officers; and

5 WHEREAS, programs and initiatives, including the
6 implementation of a deferred retirement option plan, and
7 return-to-work provisions to allow an officer to continue to
8 draw pension benefits while working and contributing to law
9 enforcement pension funds or to delay retirement benefits for
10 a bigger payout later are options to be explored;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
13 department of public safety be requested to convene a task
14 force to assess and make recommendations to provide
15 incentives for law enforcement officer retention for twenty-
16 five years or for lateral hiring of law enforcement officers
17 from out-of-state agencies to New Mexico law enforcement
18 agencies; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed
20 of representatives from the Albuquerque police department, a
21 small police department from a rural area, the New Mexico
22 state police, the New Mexico state fraternal order of police
23 lodge, the New Mexico sheriffs' association, the public
24 employees retirement association, the New Mexico association
25 of counties, the New Mexico municipal league, the office of

1 the governor, the senate, the house of representatives, the
2 New Mexico state police association and three representatives
3 from statewide community organizations; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its
5 findings and recommendations to the appropriate legislative
6 interim committee that addresses courts, corrections and
7 justice issues by November 1, 2022; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the co-chairs of the legislative interim
10 committee that addresses courts, corrections and justice
11 issues, the chief of the Albuquerque police department, the
12 chief of a small police department from a rural area, chosen
13 by the task force, the acting chief of the New Mexico state
14 police, the executive directors of the New Mexico sheriffs'
15 association, the public employees retirement association, the
16 New Mexico association of counties and the New Mexico
17 municipal league, the governor, the president pro tempore of
18 the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and
19 the presidents of the New Mexico state police association and
20 the New Mexico state fraternal order of police lodge. _____

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