

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2024

NM HOUSE REPUBLICANS DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT TO TACKLING CRIME HEAD-ON

SANTA FE, NM—Representative Bill Rehm (R-Bernalillo), who is a retired Bernalillo County Sheriff Captain, filed multiple bills today with the intention of curbing the out-of-control crime epidemic in New Mexico. The five anti-crime bills include ending the revolving door justice system, providing enhanced penalties for felons in possession of firearms, creating a new crime of carrying a gun while trafficking a controlled substance, stopping catalytic converter thefts, and clarifying the state’s embezzlement statute.

Rep. Rehm stated, “Crime has been a major topic of frustration for many New Mexicans who feel unsafe and unheard, and I continue to see statistics showing the majority of crimes committed in New Mexico are by repeat offenders and by those who have been arrested but have been released under the current, ill-advised “catch and release” pre-trial process. Yet, session after session, legislation is introduced that would ensure criminals are held accountable for their actions, but these same proposals are summarily rejected in both House and Senate committees.”

If we want to reduce violent crime in New Mexico, we have to address the root of the problem and treat criminals like criminals. “The people of New Mexico have had enough with the prevailing soft on crime approach that has clearly failed”, said Rep. Rehm.

Rep. Rehm also sent a letter to Governor Lujan Grisham asking that she include these five major anti-crime measures as part of the agenda for the upcoming 30-day session. In requesting the necessary “special message” that the state constitution requires for non-budget and non-revenue bills must receive from the governor to be considered during a 30-day session, Rep. Rehm emphasized the need for Republicans and Democrats to work together in getting serious about fighting crime.

Copies of the five anti-crime bills and the letter to the governor are attached to this press release.

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HOUSE BILL 43

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

INTRODUCED BY
William "Bill" R. Rehm

FOR THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING THE NEW MEXICO STATE
POLICE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WITH FOUR
HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$400,000) TO PURCHASE TOOLS DESIGNED
TO ENGRAVE NUMBERS ONTO CATALYTIC CONVERTERS AND TO LOAN THESE
TOOLS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OR MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR OR
SERVICE SHOPS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE AGENCIES OR SHOPS PROVIDING
AT NO COST TO RESIDENTS THE SERVICE OF ENGRAVING THE VEHICLE
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ONTO A MOTOR VEHICLE'S CATALYTIC
CONVERTER; PROVIDING LOAN REQUIREMENTS; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] CATALYTIC CONVERTER
ENGRAVING.--

A. The New Mexico state police division of the

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1 department of public safety shall purchase four hundred
2 thousand dollars' (\$400,000) worth of tools designed to engrave
3 numbers onto catalytic converters and subsequently enter into
4 agreements with law enforcement agencies or motor vehicle
5 repair or service shops to loan these engraving tools to the
6 law enforcement agencies or motor vehicle repair or service
7 shops in exchange for the law enforcement agencies or motor
8 vehicle repair or service shops providing at no cost to New
9 Mexico residents the service of engraving the vehicle
10 identification number of a motor vehicle onto its catalytic
11 converter; provided that the division shall not loan more than
12 one engraving tool to each individual motor vehicle repair or
13 service shop.

14 B. The loans made pursuant to this section shall:

15 (1) be for terms of no longer than twenty-four
16 months; provided that the loans may be renewed for subsequent
17 terms;

18 (2) maintain the New Mexico state police
19 division as the owner of the engraving tools; and

20 (3) contain any other requirements or
21 conditions that the New Mexico state police division deems
22 necessary.

23 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Four hundred thousand dollars
24 (\$400,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the New
25 Mexico state police division of the department of public safety

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1 for expenditure in fiscal year 2025 and subsequent fiscal years
2 for the purchase of tools designed to engrave numbers onto
3 catalytic converters to carry out the provisions of Section 1
4 of this act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining
5 at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general
6 fund.

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HOUSE BILL **44**

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

INTRODUCED BY
William "Bill" R. Rehm

AN ACT

RELATING TO PRETRIAL DETENTION; ESTABLISHING A PRESUMPTION THAT THE PROSECUTION HAS PROVEN BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT A DEFENDANT IS DANGEROUS AND NO RELEASE CONDITIONS WILL REASONABLY PROTECT THE SAFETY OF ANY OTHER PERSON OR THE COMMUNITY; ALLOWING THE PRESUMPTION TO BE REBUTTED IN AN ADVERSARIAL HEARING; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 31, Article 3 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"NEW MATERIAL] PRESUMPTION THAT DEFENDANT IS DANGEROUS AND THAT NO RELEASE CONDITIONS WILL REASONABLY PROTECT THE SAFETY OF ANY OTHER PERSON OR THE COMMUNITY.--

A. In a hearing initiated by a prosecuting authority pursuant to Article 2, Section 13 of the constitution

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1 of New Mexico, a magistrate court, metropolitan court or
2 district court shall first make a probable cause determination
3 as provided for by supreme court rule.

4 B. Once probable cause has been determined pursuant
5 to Subsection A of this section, the pretrial detention hearing
6 shall proceed in district court and the prosecuting authority
7 shall present all relevant evidence demonstrating that:

8 (1) the defendant committed a dangerous felony
9 offense;

10 (2) the defendant is a danger to any other
11 person or to the community if released; and

12 (3) no release conditions will reasonably
13 protect any other person or the community.

14 C. Introduction of the materials as provided in
15 Subsection B of this section shall create a rebuttable
16 presumption that the prosecuting authority has proven by clear
17 and convincing evidence that the defendant is a danger to any
18 other person or to the community if released and that no
19 release conditions will reasonably protect any other person or
20 the community.

21 D. If the prosecuting authority successfully
22 establishes the presumption pursuant to Subsection C of this
23 section, the burden of proving that the defendant is not a
24 danger to any other person or to the community and that release
25 conditions exist that will reasonably protect any other person

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1 or the community rests with the defendant.

2 E. At the conclusion of the presentation of
3 evidence by both parties, the court shall determine whether the
4 defendant has successfully rebutted the presumption that the
5 defendant is a danger to any other person or to the community
6 and that no release conditions will reasonably protect any
7 other person or the community, and in doing so, shall consider
8 any relevant factors established by supreme court rule.

9 F. As used in this section, "dangerous felony
10 offense" means:

11 (1) first degree murder, as provided in
12 Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

13 (2) second degree murder, as provided in
14 Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

15 (3) voluntary manslaughter, as provided in
16 Section 30-2-3 NMSA 1978;

17 (4) third degree aggravated battery against a
18 household member, as provided in Section 30-3-16 NMSA 1978;

19 (5) first degree kidnapping, as provided in
20 Section 30-4-1 NMSA 1978;

21 (6) first and second degree criminal sexual
22 penetration, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978;

23 (7) second and third degree criminal sexual
24 contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978;

25 (8) first and second degree robbery, as

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1 provided in Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978;

2 (9) second degree aggravated arson, as
3 provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978;

4 (10) shooting at a dwelling or occupied
5 building, as provided in Section 30-3-8 NMSA 1978;

6 (11) shooting at or from a motor vehicle, as
7 provided in Section 30-3-8 NMSA 1978;

8 (12) aggravated battery upon a peace officer,
9 as provided in Section 30-22-25 NMSA 1978;

10 (13) assault with intent to commit a violent
11 felony upon a peace officer, as provided in Section 30-22-23
12 NMSA 1978;

13 (14) aggravated assault upon a peace officer,
14 as provided in Section 30-22-22 NMSA 1978;

15 (15) a felony that was committed while the
16 defendant brandished or discharged a firearm; or

17 (16) any of the following offenses, when the
18 nature of the offense and the resulting harm are such that the
19 court judges the crime to be a dangerous offense for the
20 purpose of this section:

21 (a) involuntary manslaughter, as
22 provided in Section 30-2-3 NMSA 1978;

23 (b) fourth degree aggravated assault, as
24 provided in Section 30-3-2 NMSA 1978;

25 (c) third degree assault with intent to

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1 commit a violent felony, as provided in Section 30-3-3 NMSA
2 1978;

3 (d) fourth degree aggravated assault
4 against a household member, as provided in Section 30-3-13 NMSA
5 1978;

6 (e) third degree assault against a
7 household member with intent to commit a violent felony, as
8 provided in Section 30-3-14 NMSA 1978;

9 (f) third and fourth degree aggravated
10 stalking, as provided in Section 30-3A-3.1 NMSA 1978;

11 (g) second degree kidnapping, as
12 provided in Section 30-4-1 NMSA 1978;

13 (h) second degree abandonment of a
14 child, as provided in Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;

15 (i) first, second and third degree abuse
16 of a child, as provided in Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;

17 (j) third degree dangerous use of
18 explosives, as provided in Section 30-7-5 NMSA 1978;

19 (k) third and fourth degree criminal
20 sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978;

21 (l) fourth degree criminal sexual
22 contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978;

23 (m) third degree robbery, as provided in
24 Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978;

25 (n) third degree homicide by vehicle or

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1 great bodily harm by vehicle, as provided in Section 66-8-101
2 NMSA 1978; or

3 (o) battery upon a peace officer, as
4 provided in Section 30-22-24 NMSA 1978."

5 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
6 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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HOUSE BILL **45**

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

INTRODUCED BY
William "Bill" R. Rehm

FOR THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIME; CLARIFYING THAT EMBEZZLEMENT INCLUDES
EMBEZZLING FOR ANOTHER'S USE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 30-16-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963,
Chapter 303, Section 16-7, as amended) is amended to read:

"30-16-8. EMBEZZLEMENT.--

A. Embezzlement consists of a person embezzling or
converting to the person's own or another's use anything of
value, with which the person has been entrusted, with
fraudulent intent to deprive the owner thereof.

B. Whoever commits embezzlement when the value of
the thing embezzled or converted is two hundred fifty dollars
(\$250) or less is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

C. Whoever commits embezzlement when the value of

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1 the thing embezzled or converted is over two hundred fifty
2 dollars (\$250) but not more than five hundred dollars (\$500)
3 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

4 D. Whoever commits embezzlement when the value of
5 the thing embezzled or converted is over five hundred dollars
6 (\$500) but not more than two thousand five hundred dollars
7 (\$2,500) is guilty of a fourth degree felony.

8 E. Whoever commits embezzlement when the value of
9 the thing embezzled or converted is over two thousand five
10 hundred dollars (\$2,500) but not more than twenty thousand
11 dollars (\$20,000) is guilty of a third degree felony.

12 F. Whoever commits embezzlement when the value of
13 the thing embezzled or converted exceeds twenty thousand
14 dollars (\$20,000) is guilty of a second degree felony."

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HOUSE BILL **46**

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

INTRODUCED BY
William "Bill" R. Rehm

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL LAW; PROVIDING THAT THE PENALTY FOR A
FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM OR DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE IS FIVE
YEARS IMPRISONMENT; INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR A SERIOUS
VIOLENT FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM OR DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE
TO A SECOND DEGREE FELONY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 30-7-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1981,
Chapter 225, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"30-7-16. FIREARMS OR DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES--RECEIPT,
TRANSPORTATION OR POSSESSION BY CERTAIN PERSONS--PENALTY.--

A. It is unlawful for the following persons to
receive, transport or possess a firearm or destructive device
in this state:

- (1) a felon;

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1 (2) a person subject to an order of protection
2 pursuant to Section 40-13-5 or 40-13A-5 NMSA 1978; or

3 (3) a person convicted of any of the following
4 crimes:

5 (a) battery against a household member
6 pursuant to Section 30-3-15 NMSA 1978;

7 (b) criminal damage to property of a
8 household member pursuant to Section 30-3-18 NMSA 1978;

9 (c) a first offense of stalking pursuant
10 to Section 30-3A-3 NMSA 1978; or

11 (d) a crime listed in 18 U.S.C. 921.

12 B. A felon found in possession of a firearm or
13 destructive device shall be guilty of a third degree felony and
14 shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of the
15 Criminal Sentencing Act. A felon found in possession of a
16 firearm or destructive device for a second or subsequent
17 offense shall be guilty of a second degree felony.

18 C. A serious violent felon that is found to be in
19 possession of a firearm or destructive device shall be guilty
20 of a ~~[third]~~ second degree felony ~~[and notwithstanding the~~
21 ~~provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978, shall be sentenced to~~
22 ~~a basic term of six years imprisonment].~~

23 D. Any person subject to an order of protection
24 pursuant to Section 40-13-5 or 40-13A-5 NMSA 1978 or convicted
25 of a crime listed in Paragraph (3) of Subsection A of this

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1 section who receives, transports or possesses a firearm or
2 destructive device is guilty of a misdemeanor.

3 E. As used in this section:

4 (1) except as provided in Paragraph (2) of
5 this subsection, "destructive device" means:

6 (a) any explosive, incendiary or poison
7 gas: 1) bomb; 2) grenade; 3) rocket having a propellant charge
8 of more than four ounces; 4) missile having an explosive or
9 incendiary charge of more than one-fourth ounce; 5) mine; or 6)
10 similar device;

11 (b) any type of weapon by whatever name
12 known that will, or that may be readily converted to, expel a
13 projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant,
14 the barrel or barrels of which have a bore of more than one-
15 half inch in diameter, except a shotgun or shotgun shell that
16 is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting
17 purposes; or

18 (c) any combination of parts either
19 designed or intended for use in converting any device into a
20 destructive device as defined in this paragraph and from which
21 a destructive device may be readily assembled;

22 (2) the term "destructive device" does not
23 include any device that is neither designed nor redesigned for
24 use as a weapon or any device, although originally designed for
25 use as a weapon, that is redesigned for use as a signaling,

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1 pyrotechnic, line throwing, safety or similar device;

2 (3) "felon" means a person convicted of a
3 felony offense by a court of the United States or of any state
4 or political subdivision thereof and:

5 ~~[(a) less than ten years have passed~~
6 ~~since the person completed serving a sentence or period of~~
7 ~~probation for the felony conviction, whichever is later;~~

8 ~~(b)]~~ (a) the person has not been
9 pardoned for the felony conviction by the proper authority; and

10 ~~[(c)]~~ (b) the person has not received a
11 deferred sentence;

12 (4) "firearm" means any weapon that will or is
13 designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile
14 by the action of an explosion or the frame or receiver of any
15 such weapon; and

16 (5) "serious violent felon" means a person
17 convicted of an offense enumerated in Subparagraphs (a) through
18 (n) of Paragraph (4) of Subsection L of Section 33-2-34 NMSA
19 1978; provided that:

20 (a) less than ten years have passed
21 since the person completed serving a sentence or a period of
22 probation for the felony conviction, whichever is later;

23 (b) the person has not been pardoned for
24 the felony conviction by the proper authority; and

25 (c) the person has not received a

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1 deferred sentence and completed the total term of deferment as
2 provided in Section 31-20-9 NMSA 1978."

3 SECTION 2. Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,
4 Chapter 216, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

5 "31-18-15. SENTENCING AUTHORITY--NONCAPITAL FELONIES--
6 BASIC SENTENCES AND FINES--PAROLE AUTHORITY--MERITORIOUS
7 DEDUCTIONS.--

8 A. As used in a statute that establishes a
9 noncapital felony, the following defined felony classifications
10 and associated basic sentences of imprisonment are as follows:

11	FELONY CLASSIFICATION	BASIC SENTENCE
12	first degree felony	
13	resulting in the death	
14	of a child	life imprisonment
15	first degree felony for	
16	aggravated criminal sexual	
17	penetration	life imprisonment
18	first degree felony	eighteen years imprisonment
19	second degree felony	
20	resulting in the death of	
21	a human being	fifteen years imprisonment
22	second degree felony for a	
23	sexual offense against a	
24	child	fifteen years imprisonment
25	second degree felony for	

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1 sexual exploitation of
2 children twelve years imprisonment
3 second degree felony nine years imprisonment
4 third degree felony resulting
5 in the death of a human being six years imprisonment
6 third degree felony for a
7 sexual offense against a
8 child six years imprisonment
9 third degree felony for sexual
10 exploitation of children eleven years imprisonment
11 third degree felony for
12 possession of a firearm or
13 destructive device by a felon
14 pursuant to Subsection B of
15 Section 30-7-16 NMSA 1978 five years imprisonment
16 third degree felony three years imprisonment
17 fourth degree felony for
18 sexual exploitation of
19 children ten years imprisonment
20 fourth degree felony eighteen months imprisonment.

21 B. The appropriate basic sentence of imprisonment
22 shall be imposed upon a person convicted and sentenced pursuant
23 to Subsection A of this section, unless the court alters the
24 sentence pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Sentencing
25 Act.

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1 C. A period of parole shall be imposed only for
2 felony convictions wherein a person is sentenced to
3 imprisonment of more than one year, unless the parties to a
4 proceeding agree that a period of parole should be imposed. If
5 a period of parole is imposed, the court shall include in the
6 judgment and sentence of each person convicted and sentenced to
7 imprisonment in a corrections facility designated by the
8 corrections department authority for a period of parole to be
9 served in accordance with the provisions of Section 31-21-10
10 NMSA 1978 after the completion of any actual time of
11 imprisonment and authority to require, as a condition of
12 parole, the payment of the costs of parole services and
13 reimbursement to a law enforcement agency or local crime
14 stopper program in accordance with the provisions of that
15 section. If imposed, the period of parole shall be deemed to
16 be part of the sentence of the convicted person in addition to
17 the basic sentence imposed pursuant to Subsection A of this
18 section together with alterations, if any, pursuant to the
19 provisions of the Criminal Sentencing Act.

20 D. When a court imposes a sentence of imprisonment
21 pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15.1, 31-18-16 or
22 31-18-17 NMSA 1978 and suspends or defers the basic sentence of
23 imprisonment provided pursuant to the provisions of Subsection
24 A of this section, the period of parole shall be served in
25 accordance with the provisions of Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978

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1 for the degree of felony for the basic sentence for which the
2 inmate was convicted. For the purpose of designating a period
3 of parole, a court shall not consider that the basic sentence
4 of imprisonment was suspended or deferred and that the inmate
5 served a period of imprisonment pursuant to the provisions of
6 the Criminal Sentencing Act.

7 E. The court may, in addition to the imposition of
8 a basic sentence of imprisonment, impose a fine not to exceed:

9 (1) for a first degree felony resulting in the
10 death of a child, seventeen thousand five hundred dollars
11 (\$17,500);

12 (2) for a first degree felony for aggravated
13 criminal sexual penetration, seventeen thousand five hundred
14 dollars (\$17,500);

15 (3) for a first degree felony, fifteen
16 thousand dollars (\$15,000);

17 (4) for a second degree felony resulting in
18 the death of a human being, twelve thousand five hundred
19 dollars (\$12,500);

20 (5) for a second degree felony for a sexual
21 offense against a child, twelve thousand five hundred dollars
22 (\$12,500);

23 (6) for a second degree felony for sexual
24 exploitation of children, five thousand dollars (\$5,000);

25 (7) for a second degree felony, ten thousand

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dollars (\$10,000);
(8) for a third degree felony resulting in the death of a human being, five thousand dollars (\$5,000);
(9) for a third degree felony for a sexual offense against a child, five thousand dollars (\$5,000);
(10) for a third degree felony for sexual exploitation of children, five thousand dollars (\$5,000);
(11) for a third or fourth degree felony, five thousand dollars (\$5,000); or
(12) for a fourth degree felony for sexual exploitation of children, five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

F. When the court imposes a sentence of imprisonment for a felony offense, the court shall indicate whether or not the offense is a serious violent offense as defined in Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978. The court shall inform an offender that the offender's sentence of imprisonment is subject to the provisions of Sections 33-2-34, 33-2-36, 33-2-37 and 33-2-38 NMSA 1978. If the court fails to inform an offender that the offender's sentence is subject to those provisions or if the court provides the offender with erroneous information regarding those provisions, the failure to inform or the error shall not provide a basis for a writ of habeas corpus.

G. No later than October 31 of each year, the New Mexico sentencing commission shall provide a written report

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1 to the secretary of corrections, all New Mexico criminal court
2 judges, the administrative office of the district attorneys and
3 the chief public defender. The report shall specify the
4 average reduction in the sentence of imprisonment for serious
5 violent offenses and nonviolent offenses, as defined in Section
6 33-2-34 NMSA 1978, due to meritorious deductions earned by
7 prisoners during the previous fiscal year pursuant to the
8 provisions of Sections 33-2-34, 33-2-36, 33-2-37 and 33-2-38
9 NMSA 1978. The corrections department shall allow the
10 commission access to documents used by the department to
11 determine earned meritorious deductions for prisoners."

12 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
13 provisions of this act is July 1, 2024.

HOUSE BILL 47

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

INTRODUCED BY
William "Bill" R. Rehm

FOR THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL LAW; CREATING THE CRIME OF UNLAWFUL
CARRYING OF A FIREARM WHILE TRAFFICKING A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE;
PROVIDING PENALTIES.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 30, Article 7 NMSA
1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] UNLAWFUL CARRYING OF A FIREARM WHILE
TRAFFICKING A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.--Unlawful carrying of a
firearm while trafficking a controlled substance consists of
carrying a firearm while violating the provisions of Section
30-31-20 NMSA 1978. Whoever commits unlawful carrying of a
firearm while trafficking a controlled substance is guilty of a
third degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the
provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978. As used in this

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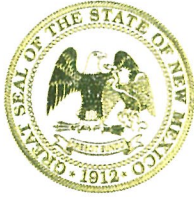
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section, "firearm" means any weapon that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosion or the frame or receiver of any such weapon."

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2024.



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

WILLIAM "BILL" R. REHM
R - Bernalillo
District 31

January 4, 2024

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Advisory Member:
Economic & Rural Development

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor, State of New Mexico
State Capitol, Room 400
480 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor:

Since the following pieces of legislation have been pre-filed with the House Clerk's Office, I am writing to request a special message for House Bills 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47 so that they can be included within the public policy debate during the upcoming 30-day session on how best to alleviate New Mexico's major crime problem.

All these bills are drafted towards achieving the goal of effectively addressing our state's out of control crime issue by focusing on ending the revolving door justice system, providing enhanced penalties for felons in possession of firearms, creating a new crime of carrying a gun while trafficking a controlled substance, stopping catalytic converter thefts, and clarifying our embezzlement statute. While your commitment to address the pretrial detention/bail problems is encouraging, we must move forward with a comprehensive approach to make our state a place that all New Mexicans can feel safe and proud to be a part.

I continue to see statistics showing the majority of crimes committed in New Mexico are by repeat offenders and by those who have been arrested but have been released under the current, ill-advised "catch and release" pre-trial process. Yet, session after session, legislation is introduced that would ensure that criminals are held accountable for their actions, and these same proposals are summarily rejected in both House and Senate committees. I firmly believe your support for the bills listed above via a special message would signal to the Legislature that the time has come for us to finally get serious about reducing crime.

Support for these bills is not to suggest that the legislative and executive branches should only address specific criminal behavior; Republicans and Democrats should also be focusing our attention on the root causes of criminal behavior. We should commit to work together to increase resources for rehabilitation and treatment of drug addiction and mental health disorders that lead some people to a life of crime. We also, however, must recognize that any

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solution to the crime problem must include prioritizing keeping the most dangerous criminals off our streets. The people of New Mexico have had enough with the prevailing soft on crime approach that has clearly failed. It is for this primary reason, we must get serious about strengthening our criminal justice laws, and House Bills 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47 are essential components in this long overdue effort.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and I look forward to meeting with you and your staff to discuss these pieces of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William R. Rehm".

William R. Rehm
State Representative District 31