



# State of New Mexico

## Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson  
Governor

### EXECUTIVE ORDER 2008-009

#### CREATING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON PRISON REFORM

**WHEREAS**, state prison systems across the nation face rising populations and increasing costs and the operation of those systems places a significant burden on state personnel and financial resources; and

**WHEREAS**, demographic studies indicate that without corrective action prison conditions may worsen as the effects are felt from the reentry into society of current inmate populations, recidivism, an increasing youth population, and the continuing trend towards enactment of tougher sentencing laws; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico should continue to take proactive steps to ameliorate these concerns by thoroughly analyzing the relevant issues and developing innovative approaches to resolving a number of concerns, and;

**WHEREAS**, a deliberate effort to improve education and treatment programs within state institutions is necessary to enable incarcerated individuals to acquire the skills and knowledge that will allow them to avoid the conditions and behavior that caused their initial incarceration; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, I Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby establish the **Governor's Task Force on Prison Reform** ("Task Force") as follows:

1. The purpose of the Task Force shall be to identify areas of need in prison operations, inmate programs related to education, work, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, and reentry, and to develop realistic proposals for reform of state statutes, budgetary appropriations, and the administration of correctional facilities within the state.

2. The Task Force shall be chaired by John Bigelow, the Chief Public Defender in the New Mexico Public Defender Department. The Governor shall appoint the remaining members of the Task Force as follows:
  - a. At least two members shall be state legislators;
  - b. At least one member shall be a judge or justice of the District Court, Court of Appeals, or Supreme Court;
  - c. One member shall be the Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Corrections Department, or his designee or designees; and
  - d. A representative group of public members, taking into consideration individuals' experience and knowledge related to: administration of probation and parole programs, sentencing, the criminal justice system in general, law enforcement, criminal prosecution and criminal defense, inmate advocacy, juvenile justice issues, and the provision of inmate education, training, rehabilitation, and reentry services.
3. The Office of the Governor and the Department of Finance and Administration shall provide administrative staff and support to the Task Force.
4. The term of each member shall be from the date of appointment until twenty (20) days after the adjournment of the next regular session of the Legislature in 2009, unless otherwise determined by the Governor.
5. The Task Force shall convene at least three times, but may convene as frequently as necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Task Force.
6. The Task Force shall consult with public and private individuals, experts, and other entities as deemed necessary for the development of its recommendations and shall consider input from the general public in the development of any proposals.
7. The Task Force shall prepare and present recommendations for the Governor's consideration no later than June 30, 2008, unless otherwise directed by the Governor.
8. The Task Force shall be an advisory body that makes recommendations to the Governor and in no event shall it make final decisions regarding policy.
9. Task Force members shall serve voluntarily and shall receive no pay for their services, nor shall they be reimbursed for travel or subsistence expenses, unless otherwise provided by law.

**THIS ORDER** supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Governor.

**ATTEST:**



**MARY HERRERA  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

**DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS  
7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2008**

**WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL  
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**



**BILL RICHARDSON  
GOVERNOR**

