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AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS' AFFAIRS; TRANSFERRING OVERSIGHT OF THE  
NEW MEXICO STATE VETERANS' HOME FROM THE VETERANS' SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 9-22-12.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws  
2017, Chapter 84, Section 7) is amended to read:

"9-22-12.1. HEALTH CARE COORDINATION DIVISION.--The  
health care coordination division shall:

A. develop and coordinate veterans programs and  
outreach, including transitional living, housing and health  
care programs; and

B. advise and coordinate with the secretary  
regarding all health care-related issues for veterans and  
veterans' families."

**SECTION 2.** Section 23-1-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,  
Chapter 253, Section 42, as amended) is amended to read:

"23-1-12. TRANSFER OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS.--

A. All property, appropriations and cash balances  
now held in the name of the following institutional  
facilities, or by any state agency for the indicated  
facilities, the use of which is not limited by the terms of  
any trust or constitutional provision, and staff employed by  
the following institutional facilities, are transferred to

1 the department of health:

2 (1) New Mexico behavioral health institute  
3 at Las Vegas;

4 (2) Los Lunas medical center;

5 (3) Fort Bayard medical center veterans'  
6 unit;

7 (4) Villa Solano;

8 (5) Fort Stanton hospital;

9 (6) Turquoise lodge;

10 (7) Pecos lodge; and

11 (8) New Mexico state veterans' home.

12 B. The secretary of health may delegate the  
13 authority for the supervision and operation of any of the  
14 institutional facilities transferred under Subsection A of  
15 this section to any of the organizational units within the  
16 department of health."

17 **SECTION 3.** Section 23-4-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1974  
18 (S.S.), Chapter 2, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

19 "23-4-1. VETERANS' HOME CREATED--ADVISORY BOARD.--

20 A. The "New Mexico state veterans' home" located  
21 near Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, is declared to be a  
22 state home for veterans of service in the armed forces of the  
23 United States and their qualifying spouses, surviving spouses  
24 and gold star parents.

25 B. The "Fort Bayard medical center veterans'

1 unit", a separate and distinct unit of the Fort Bayard  
2 medical center, located near Silver City, New Mexico, is  
3 declared to be a state home for veterans of service in the  
4 armed forces of the United States.

5 C. There is created the "New Mexico veterans' home  
6 advisory board". The advisory board shall consist of nine  
7 members as follows:

8 (1) the secretary of health or the  
9 secretary's designee;

10 (2) the secretary of veterans' services or  
11 the secretary's designee;

12 (3) the secretary of aging and long-term  
13 services or the secretary's designee;

14 (4) the administrator of a private nursing  
15 home;

16 (5) a registered health care professional  
17 who is employed by a public or private nursing home;

18 (6) the state commander of the department of  
19 New Mexico veterans of foreign wars or the department  
20 commander's designee;

21 (7) the department commander of the American  
22 legion or the department commander's designee;

23 (8) the state commander of disabled American  
24 veterans or the state commander's designee; and

25 (9) a member of any other congressionally

1 recognized veteran service organization.

2 D. The governor shall appoint the members  
3 designated in Paragraphs (4), (5) and (9) of Subsection C of  
4 this section, and their terms shall be for three years each.

5 E. The New Mexico state veterans' home shall be  
6 under the control and oversight of the department of health.

7 F. The New Mexico veterans' home advisory board  
8 shall provide advice to the secretaries of veterans' services  
9 and health and the administrators of the New Mexico state  
10 veterans' home and the Fort Bayard medical center regarding  
11 veterans' services."

12 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
13 provisions of this act is July 1, 2019. \_\_\_\_\_

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