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HOUSE BILL 256

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; REQUIRING THE AGING AND
LONG-TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF LAUNCHING ELDER WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SELECTED RURAL AND TRIBAL
COMMUNITIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--ELDER WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE--
MEMBERS--DUTIES.--

A. As used in this section:

(1) "elder workforce development" means
opportunities for an individual to grow skills and develop the
tools necessary to support older adult independence;

(2) "home- and community-based services" means

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1 the types of person-centered care delivered in the home and
2 community that address health, wellness and other services
3 needed to support daily living activities to enable older
4 adults to remain in their homes as they age; and

5 (3) "older adults" means persons sixty years
6 of age and older.

7 B. The "elder workforce development in rural and
8 tribal communities task force" is created. The secretary of
9 aging and long-term services shall convene and support the task
10 force. The task force shall have the following members:

11 (1) the secretary of health or the secretary's
12 designee;

13 (2) the secretary of economic development or
14 the secretary's designee;

15 (3) the secretary of higher education or the
16 secretary's designee;

17 (4) the secretary of human services or the
18 secretary's designee;

19 (5) the secretary of Indian affairs or the
20 secretary's designee;

21 (6) the secretary of public education or the
22 secretary's designee;

23 (7) the secretary of workforce solutions or
24 the secretary's designee;

25 (8) the president of central New Mexico

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1 community college or the president's designee;

2 (9) the president of the New Mexico
3 association of community colleges or the president's designee;

4 (10) the president of eastern New Mexico
5 university or the president's designee;

6 (11) one representative of the national Indian
7 council on aging;

8 (12) one representative of the Apache tribes
9 with expertise in senior services;

10 (13) one representative of the Navajo Nation
11 with expertise in senior services;

12 (14) one representative of the nineteen
13 pueblos with expertise in senior services;

14 (15) three tribal leader representatives or
15 the tribal leaders' designees;

16 (16) one representative of a tribally owned or
17 operated long-term care service;

18 (17) one representative from tribal health
19 care;

20 (18) one representative of the non-metro area
21 agency on aging;

22 (19) one rural representative of the New
23 Mexico association of counties;

24 (20) one rural representative of the New
25 Mexico municipal league;

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1 (21) one representative of the New Mexico
2 rural hospital network;

3 (22) one representative of the New Mexico
4 association for home and hospice care;

5 (23) one representative of the eastern plains
6 council of governments; and

7 (24) one representative of AARP New Mexico.

8 C. The secretary of aging and long-term services
9 may appoint additional task force members or may appoint
10 nonvoting advisory members.

11 D. Public members of the task force are entitled to
12 per diem and mileage as provided for state employees in the Per
13 Diem and Mileage Act and shall receive no other compensation,
14 perquisite or allowance.

15 E. The task force shall conduct an asset mapping
16 and gap analysis to determine the availability, accessibility
17 and need for:

18 (1) services that support elder independence
19 by providing opportunities for healthy and independent living
20 in rural and tribal communities; and

21 (2) elder workforce opportunities that
22 contribute to the improved economic well-being and security of
23 the selected rural and tribal communities.

24 F. The asset mapping and gap analysis shall be
25 conducted within three rural counties in northeast New Mexico

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1 and three tribal communities, based upon existing data,
2 surveys, interviews and, when possible, site visits and
3 convenings, and shall include:

4 (1) a study of existing services and the gaps
5 in services for older adults, which includes:

6 (a) the number of older adults within
7 the selected communities estimated to currently need home- and
8 community-based services or that will need home- and community-
9 based services in the future;

10 (b) the number of older adults within
11 the selected communities who have received or requested home-
12 and community-based services;

13 (c) the availability of and need for
14 congregate and home-delivered meal services, including services
15 tailored to the nutritional needs of older adults;

16 (d) the availability of and need for
17 transportation services to support access to medical
18 appointments, grocery stores, pharmacists, activities related
19 to health and wellness, social opportunities and related needs
20 to support independent living;

21 (e) the availability of and need for
22 home maintenance programs to reduce the risk of falls, improve
23 energy efficiency and ensure homes meet health and safety
24 needs;

25 (f) the availability of and need for

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1 services that enhance quality of life among older adults,
2 including social engagement, volunteerism, congregate meals and
3 social connection opportunities;

4 (g) the availability of and need for
5 services that promote intergenerational opportunities;

6 (h) the availability of and need for
7 programs and services that support family caregivers, including
8 those who are supporting people living with a form of dementia;

9 (i) the availability of and need for
10 volunteer programs designed to support elder independence;

11 (j) the barriers in the selected rural
12 and tribal communities to offering adequate services and
13 supports for older adults; and

14 (k) other factors and information deemed
15 beneficial by the task force; and

16 (2) a study of existing elder workforce
17 opportunities and gaps in opportunities that contribute to
18 improved economic well-being and security, including:

19 (a) the current or projected employment
20 opportunities and vacancies in the elder workforce;

21 (b) the availability of and need for
22 career counseling opportunities to support pathways to
23 employment in the elder workforce;

24 (c) the availability of and need for
25 educational training or certificates to equip current and

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1 future employees with the skills necessary to enter and remain
2 in the elder workforce;

3 (d) the manner in which current
4 employees in the elder workforce learned about employment
5 opportunities in the field;

6 (e) whether and how workforce
7 development organizations, including programs provided by the
8 workforce solutions department, are leveraging existing
9 resources through city, county, state and federal government to
10 support elder services;

11 (f) the barriers to establishing and
12 maintaining elder workforce opportunities that contribute to
13 economic well-being and security for the selected rural and
14 tribal communities; and

15 (g) other factors and information deemed
16 beneficial by the task force.

17 G. The final report of the task force shall
18 provide:

19 (1) an analysis of available home- and
20 community-based services and the community-based services
21 needed to support elder independence within the geographic
22 boundaries of each selected tribal and rural community;

23 (2) an analysis of elder workforce
24 opportunities that contribute to the improved economic
25 well-being and security of residents of the selected rural and

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1 tribal communities and what elder workforce opportunities are
2 needed to support economic well-being and security within the
3 geographic boundaries of each selected tribal and rural
4 community;

5 (3) an analysis of the barriers preventing the
6 selected rural and tribal communities from offering needed
7 home- and community-based services and supports for older
8 adults;

9 (4) an analysis of the barriers preventing the
10 selected rural and tribal communities from offering needed
11 educational and workforce training to current and potential
12 elder workforce members;

13 (5) an analysis of the workforce needs
14 necessary to providing services for older adults in the
15 selected rural and tribal communities;

16 (6) short-term policy and funding
17 recommendations for:

18 (a) ensuring the availability of home-
19 and community-based services that support older adults in the
20 selected rural and tribal communities;

21 (b) ensuring that current and potential
22 members of the elder workforce are equipped with appropriate
23 training, education and career opportunities; and

24 (c) building the volunteer
25 infrastructure necessary to support comprehensive home- and

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1 community-based services for older adults and elder workforce
2 development in the selected rural and tribal communities; and

3 (7) long-term policy and funding
4 recommendations for:

5 (a) providing home- and community-based
6 services for older adults in rural and tribal communities in
7 New Mexico; and

8 (b) strengthening the volunteer
9 infrastructure necessary to support services that promote older
10 adult independence and elder workforce development in rural and
11 tribal communities in the state.

12 H. The task force shall report its preliminary
13 findings and recommendations to the secretary of aging and
14 long-term services by December 31, 2021.

15 I. The task force shall report its final findings
16 and recommendations to the secretary of aging and long-term
17 services by June 30, 2022.

18 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred thousand dollars
19 (\$100,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the aging
20 and long-term services department for expenditure in fiscal
21 year 2022 to convene and pay the expenses and staffing of the
22 elder workforce development in rural and tribal communities
23 task force. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining
24 at the end of fiscal year 2022 shall revert to the general
25 fund.

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