

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

2 **55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Linda M. Lopez

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10 A JOINT RESOLUTION

11 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW  
12 MEXICO TO ADD A NEW SECTION TO ESTABLISH IN THE JUDICIAL  
13 DEPARTMENT AN OFFICE OF FAMILY REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY.

14  
15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

16 SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 6 of the  
17 constitution of New Mexico by adding a new section to read:

18 "A. The "office of family representation and  
19 advocacy" is established as an independent state agency for the  
20 purpose of providing representation to indigent persons as  
21 provided by law, with standards of representation as also  
22 provided by law. The director is the administrative head of  
23 the office of family representation and advocacy. The term and  
24 qualifications of the director shall be provided by law.

25 B. The "family representation and advocacy

.218794.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 oversight commission" is established. The commission shall  
2 appoint the director. The commission shall exercise  
3 independent oversight of the office of family representation  
4 and advocacy. The commission shall not interfere with the  
5 discretion, professional judgment or advocacy of the office of  
6 family representation and advocacy, a contractor with the  
7 office or an assigned counsel in an individual case. Terms,  
8 qualifications and membership of the commission shall be  
9 established by law."

10 SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution  
11 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or  
12 rejection at the next general election or at any special  
13 election prior to that date that may be called for that  
14 purpose.