

1 SENATE BILL 134

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Linda M. López and Harold Pope and Shannon D. Pinto  
5 and Angel M. Charley and Martin Hickey

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE; CREATING A NEW PERMANENT  
12 LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE; REPEALING AND  
13 ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

16 SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] CREATION OF COMMITTEE--  
17 MEMBERS--NUMBER--APPOINTMENT--TERM OF OFFICE.--

18 A. A permanent joint interim committee of the  
19 legislature to be called the "legislative health and human  
20 services committee" is created. The committee shall be  
21 composed of ten members, four from the senate and six from the  
22 house of representatives. Members of the house of  
23 representatives and senate standing committees on health shall  
24 be represented. The committee members shall be appointed for  
25 two-year terms that shall expire on the first day of each

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1 odd-year session. The term of a member shall terminate when  
2 the member ceases to be a member of the legislature. Members  
3 shall be appointed by the senate committees' committee or, if  
4 the appointment is made in the interim, by the president pro  
5 tempore of the senate after consultation with and agreement of  
6 a majority of the members of the committees' committee, and the  
7 speaker of the house of representatives; provided that members  
8 of a minority party shall be appointed by the speaker of the  
9 house of representatives only from recommendations made by the  
10 minority floor leader of the house of representatives, although  
11 the speaker shall retain the right to reject any such  
12 recommendations. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled  
13 for the unexpired term by the respective appointing authority  
14 that makes the original appointments and subject to the same  
15 recommendations; provided that members shall be appointed from  
16 the respective houses, parties and committees so as to maintain  
17 the same number of house of representatives and senate members  
18 and the same representation of standing committees as provided  
19 in the original appointments. Each of the two parties having  
20 the largest number of members in the legislature shall be  
21 represented on the committee in proportion to the membership of  
22 such party in each house; provided that in the computation,  
23 major fractions shall be counted as whole numbers, and in no  
24 event shall either of the two major parties have fewer than one  
25 member from each house.

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B. The chair and vice chair of the committee shall be appointed for terms coterminous with their membership on the committee. Each office shall be alternated between the respective houses every two years. For the terms beginning in 2026, the chair shall be a senate member and the vice chair, if any, shall be a house of representatives member, and the officers appointed in 2026 shall serve only one year. The appointing authority of each house shall exercise its appointing authority by naming the chair or vice chair respectively on this alternating basis.

C. An action shall not be taken by the committee if a majority of the total membership from either house on the committee rejects such action.

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DIRECTOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.--The position of "director  
of the legislative health and human services committee" is  
created. The director shall be hired by the legislative health  
and human services committee and shall serve at the committee's  
pleasure. The director shall be provided with the necessary  
office space, supplies, equipment and assistants by the  
committee. The director's salary shall be set by the  
committee.

SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE.--

The legislative health and human services committee shall:

A. direct the work of the director of the

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1 legislative health and human services committee;

2                   B. conduct a continuing study of all health and  
3 human services provided in New Mexico, the laws governing such  
4 services and the policies and costs of the state's health and  
5 human services system;

6                   C. recommend changes in laws relating to the  
7 provision of health and human services, if any are deemed  
8 desirable, and draft and present to the legislature any  
9 legislation necessary; and

10                  D. make a full report of the committee's findings  
11 and recommendations for the consideration of each odd-year  
12 legislative session on or before the tenth day thereof and may  
13 make additional reports as the committee deems necessary.

14                  **SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE**  
15 **COMMITTEE--STAFF TRAVEL.--**The members of the legislative health  
16 and human services committee shall receive reimbursement for  
17 expenses for attending meetings or traveling in connection with  
18 their duties in the same manner and under the same policies as  
19 the New Mexico legislative council. The director of the  
20 legislative health and human services committee and the  
21 committee's staff shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses  
22 in the same manner and amount as other state employees.

23                  **SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.--**Payments  
24 from funds appropriated for the use of the legislative health  
25 and human services committee shall be made on vouchers signed

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1 by the director of the legislative health and human services  
2 committee or the director's designee subject to committee  
3 approval.

4 **SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] COMPLIANCE WITH REQUESTS FOR**  
5 **INFORMATION.--Each agency or institution of the state and its**  
6 **political subdivisions shall furnish and make available to the**  
7 **legislative health and human services committee or any of its**  
8 **subcommittees such documents, material or information not made**  
9 **confidential by law and that are requested by the committee or**  
10 **any of its subcommittees upon a majority vote of the respective**  
11 **members of the committee or its subcommittees.**

12 **SECTION 7. REPEAL.--Sections 2-13-1 through 2-13-5 NMSA**  
13 **1978 (being Laws 1989, Chapter 349, Sections 1 through 3, Laws**  
14 **2010, Chapter 24, Section 1 and Laws 1989, Chapter 349,**  
15 **Sections 4 and 5) are repealed.**

16 **SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars**  
17 **(\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the**  
18 **legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal year 2027**  
19 **for the initial staffing for and activities of the legislative**  
20 **health and human services committee pursuant to this act. Any**  
21 **unexpended balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2027**  
22 **shall revert to the general fund.**

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