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SENATE BILL 134

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

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

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

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

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

A. A permanent joint interim committee of the
legislature to be called the "legislative health and human
services committee" is created. The committee shall be
composed of ten members, four from the senate and six from the
house of representatives. Members of the house of
representatives and senate standing committees on health shall
be represented. The committee members shall be appointed for
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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1 B. The chair and vice chair of the committee shall
2 be appointed for terms coterminous with their membership on the
3 committee. Each office shall be alternated between the
4 respective houses every two years. For the terms beginning in
5 2026, the chair shall be a senate member and the vice chair, if
6 any, shall be a house of representatives member, and the
7 officers appointed in 2026 shall serve only one year. The
8 appointing authority of each house shall exercise its
9 appointing authority by naming the chair or vice chair
10 respectively on this alternating basis.

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

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

23 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE.--
24 The legislative health and human services committee shall:

25 A. direct the work of the director of the

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.