

SENATE BILL 135

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

INTRODUCED BY

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

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE; REVISING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2-5-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1957,
Chapter 3, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"2-5-1. LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE CREATED--TERMS--
VACANCIES.--

A. There is created a continuing joint interim
committee of the legislature to be designated the "legislative
finance committee". The committee shall be composed of sixteen
members, eight members from the house of representatives and
eight members from the senate. The ~~[chairmen]~~ chairs of the
house appropriations and finance and house taxation and revenue
committees and the senate finance committee or members of their

1 respective committees designated by each of them from time to
2 time shall be members. The chair of the legislative health and
3 human services committee, or the vice chair if designated by
4 the chair, shall be a member. A minority member of the
5 legislative health and human services committee appointed by
6 the minority floor leader of the legislative chamber not
7 represented by the chair of the committee shall be a member.

8 The minority party shall be represented on the committee by at
9 least one member from each house. [~~Six~~] Five of the remaining
10 members shall be appointed from the house of representatives by
11 the speaker, and the [~~seven~~] six remaining members shall be
12 appointed from the senate by the committees' committee or, if
13 the appointments are made in the interim, by the president pro
14 tempore after consultation with and agreement of a majority of
15 the members of the committees' committee. An appointed member
16 may designate a member of [~~his~~] the appointed member's party to
17 serve in [~~his~~] the appointed member's place at a committee
18 meeting at which the [~~regular~~] appointed member is going to be
19 absent if the member notifies the [~~chairman~~] chair of the
20 legislative finance committee of [~~his~~] the anticipated absence
21 and [~~his~~] the member's designee at least twenty-four hours
22 before the committee meeting. The appointed members of the
23 committee shall be appointed from each house so as to give the
24 two political parties having the most members in each house the
25 same total proportionate representation on the committee as

1 prevails in that house; provided that, in the computation,
2 major fractions shall be counted as whole numbers. Minority
3 members from the house shall be appointed by the speaker only
4 from recommendations made by the minority floor leader,
5 although the speaker shall retain the right to reject any such
6 recommendations.

7 B. Members shall be appointed for terms of two
8 years and shall serve from the time of their appointment until
9 the end of the next session of the legislature. The term of
10 any member shall terminate when the member ceases to be a
11 member of the legislature.

12 C. Vacancies in the committee may be filled for the
13 unexpired term by appointment from the house or senate
14 respectively by the respective appointing authority that makes
15 the original appointments and subject to the same
16 recommendations; provided the new members shall be from the
17 same house of the legislature and the same party from which
18 their predecessors were appointed. The committee shall elect
19 from its membership such other officers as may be deemed
20 necessary. The officers shall be appointed for terms
21 coterminous with their membership on the committee. Each
22 office shall be alternated between the respective houses each
23 two years. For the terms beginning in 1979, the [chairman]
24 chair shall be a senate member and the vice [chairman] chair,
25 if any, shall be a house member. The appointing authority of

1 each house shall exercise its appointing authority by naming
2 the [~~chairman~~] chair or vice [~~chairman~~] chair, respectively, on
3 this alternating basis.

4 D. No action shall be taken by the committee if a
5 majority of the total membership from either house on the
6 committee rejects the action."

7 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
8 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

9 - 4 -
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25