

1 SENATE BILL 135

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 AN ACT

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

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

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

17 "2-5-1. LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE CREATED--TERMS--  
18 VACANCIES--

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

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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

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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

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each house shall exercise its appointing authority by naming the [echairman] chair or vice [echairman] chair, respectively, on this alternating basis.

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

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

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