

AN ACT

RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT; CREATING AN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
TASK FORCE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Section 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
TASK FORCE--CREATION--STAFF.--

A. The "unemployment insurance task force" is
created. The task force consists of fifteen members as
follows:

(1) the secretary of labor or the
secretary's designee;

(2) a staff member of the labor department,
appointed by the secretary of labor, who is familiar with the
existing structure for calculating contribution rates and
alternatives used in other states;

(3) a staff member of the legislative
finance committee, appointed by the legislative finance
committee, who is familiar with unemployment compensation and
labor department issues;

(4) the secretary of finance and
administration or the secretary's designee;

(5) the chairpersons of the house
appropriations and finance committee, the senate finance
committee, the senate corporations and transportation

committee and the house government and urban affairs committee or their designees;

(6) a public member, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, who is an economist with an advocacy group for the unemployed;

(7) a minority party member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(8) a minority party member of the senate, appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate;

(9) two public members, one to represent labor interests and one to represent business interests, and both of whom have expertise in unemployment insurance, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(10) two public members, one to represent labor interests and one to represent business interests, and both of whom have expertise in unemployment insurance, appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.

B. The chair of the unemployment insurance task force shall be elected by the task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the chair.

C. Members of the task force shall serve from the time of their appointment through December 31, 2005. On January 1, 2006, the task force is terminated.

D. The public members of the task force shall

receive per diem and mileage pursuant to the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

E. The task force shall:

(1) examine the existing program of unemployment insurance in New Mexico, including:

(a) the requirements of federal law;

(b) the adequacy of the contribution levels for employers;

(c) the reasonableness of the statutory structure for adjusting contribution levels;

(d) the adequacy of existing benefits and alternatives to expand and improve upon those benefits; and

(e) the actuarial soundness of the unemployment compensation fund and alternatives for reimbursing or crediting excess amounts to employers; and

(2) no later than December 31, 2005, report its findings and recommendations to the second session of the forty-seventh legislature.

F. The legislative council service, with assistance from the labor department and the legislative finance committee, shall provide staff for the task force.

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