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SENATE BILL 57

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane M. Garcia

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN; CREATING THE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
PREVENTION TASK FORCE; PROVIDING DUTIES; DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

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

**SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
PREVENTION TASK FORCE--CREATED--MEMBERS--DUTIES--REPORT.--**

A. The governor shall appoint a "child sexual abuse
prevention task force" to serve from the date of appointment
until December 1, 2012. The task force shall consist of the
following members:

(1) the secretary of children, youth and
families, who shall serve as chairperson of the task force;

(2) the secretary of public education, who
shall serve as the vice chairperson of the task force;

1 (3) the secretary of health, or the
2 secretary's designee;

3 (4) the secretary of public safety, or the
4 secretary's designee;

5 (5) the secretary of Indian affairs, or the
6 secretary's designee;

7 (6) the public defender, or the public
8 defender's designee;

9 (7) the following members appointed by the
10 governor so as to reflect the geographic distribution of the
11 members and the cultural diversity of the state:

12 (a) a district attorney;

13 (b) a representative of the New Mexico
14 school superintendents association;

15 (c) one public school teacher, one
16 public school counselor and one public school social worker;

17 and

18 (d) a representative of an organization
19 involved with child sexual abuse prevention;

20 (8) one public member appointed by the speaker
21 of the house of representatives; and

22 (9) one public member appointed by the
23 president pro tempore of the senate.

24 B. Non-ex-officio members of the task force shall
25 be individuals who are actively involved in the areas of

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1 prevention, detection, reporting, investigation, prosecution
2 and treatment of child sexual abuse.

3 C. The task force shall:

4 (1) study:

5 (a) academic research concerning child
6 sexual abuse prevention and efforts in other states to prevent
7 child sexual abuse;

8 (b) data concerning child sexual abuse
9 in New Mexico; and

10 (c) current efforts and policies of
11 state agencies, school districts, other local government
12 agencies and community-based programs for the prevention,
13 detection, reporting, prosecution and treatment of child sexual
14 abuse;

15 (2) receive reports and testimony from state
16 and local agencies, public schools, community-based and other
17 public and private organizations involved in child sexual abuse
18 prevention or treatment and other interested persons; and

19 (3) make recommendations to the governor and
20 the legislature by December 1, 2012 for methods and practices
21 to reduce child sexual abuse in New Mexico. In making the
22 recommendations, the task force shall focus on specific
23 statutory changes and changes to state, local and public school
24 policies that increase and improve prevention and reporting of
25 child sexual abuse and methods to improve cooperation between

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1 and among state agencies, district attorneys, public schools
2 and community-based organizations involved in preventing,
3 detecting, reporting, prosecuting and treating child sexual
4 abuse.

5 D. As part of its duties to focus on public
6 policies related to child sexual abuse, the task force, in
7 cooperation with school districts, shall develop a school-
8 targeted state policy to address child sexual abuse that
9 includes:

10 (1) a model age-appropriate curriculum for
11 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade;

12 (2) training for school personnel on child
13 sexual abuse, including strategies for providing emotional and
14 educational support for sexually abused children;

15 (3) educational information for parents and
16 guardians to be included in school handbooks on the warning
17 signs of child sexual abuse, along with assistance, referral
18 and resource information;

19 (4) a statewide master list of available
20 counseling and resources for children affected by sexual abuse,
21 listed by community and school district; and

22 (5) methods for increasing teacher, student
23 and parent awareness of issues involving child sexual abuse.

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

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