

1 SENATE BILL 555

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Joseph Cervantes

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE; CREATING A JOINT INTERIM
12 LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTION AND STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE;
13 ESTABLISHING DUTIES; PROVIDING FOR CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEES;
14 PROVIDING FOR STAFFING; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

17 SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTION AND
18 STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE CREATED.--There is created a
19 permanent joint interim legislative committee of the
20 legislature to be called the "legislative institution and
21 state-federal relations committee".

22 SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] MEMBERSHIP--APPOINTMENT--
23 VACANCIES.--

24 A. The legislative institution and state-federal
25 relations committee shall be composed of twelve members. Six

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1 members of the house of representatives shall be appointed by
2 the speaker of the house of representatives and six members of
3 the senate shall be appointed by the committees' committee of
4 the senate or, if the senate appointments are made in the
5 interim, by the president pro tempore of the senate after
6 consultation with and agreement of a majority of the members of
7 the committees' committee. For the biennial legislature
8 beginning in 2019, the chair shall be a senate member and the
9 vice chair shall be a house member. The appointing authority
10 of each house shall exercise its appointing authority by naming
11 the chair or vice chair, respectively, on an alternating
12 biennial legislature basis.

13 B. Members shall be appointed from each house so as
14 to give the two major political parties in each house the same
15 proportional representation on the committee as prevails in
16 each house; provided, however, that in no event shall either
17 party have less than one member from each house on the
18 committee.

19 C. At the request of the committee chair, members
20 may be removed from the committee by the appointing authority
21 for nonattendance according to New Mexico legislative council
22 policy. Vacancies on the committee may be filled by the
23 appointing authority.

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

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1 committee rejects the action.

2 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] DUTIES.--

3 A. After its appointment, the legislative
4 institution and state-federal relations committee shall hold
5 one organizational meeting to develop a work plan and budget
6 for the ensuing interim. The work plan and budget shall be
7 submitted to the New Mexico legislative council for approval.

8 B. Upon approval of its work plan and budget, the
9 committee shall:

10 (1) examine the statutes and constitutional
11 provisions that govern the state's legislative process,
12 including the house, senate and joint rules;

13 (2) develop recommendations to more
14 effectively perform the policymaking powers and oversight
15 duties of the legislature;

16 (3) study the processes and procedures of
17 other state legislatures;

18 (4) evaluate proposed federal legislation that
19 could substantially affect the state; and

20 (5) examine the distribution of power and
21 responsibility within state government.

22 C. In carrying out its duties, the committee may
23 request assistance or information from:

24 (1) the New Mexico congressional delegation or
25 its staff;

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1 (2) individuals or organizations that have
2 expertise in a relevant field or discipline; and

3 (3) state and federal government entities.

4 D. In the evaluation of a federal law and its
5 effect on the state, the committee may rely on:

6 (1) the text of the United States
7 constitution;

8 (2) primary source documents that are:

9 (a) directly relevant to the drafting,
10 adoption, ratification or initial implementation of the United
11 States constitution; or

12 (b) created by a person directly
13 involved in the drafting, adoption, ratification or initial
14 implementation of the United States constitution; and

15 (3) other relevant sources, including federal
16 court decisions and scholarly materials.

17 SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] SUBCOMMITTEES.--A subcommittee
18 of the legislative institution and state-federal relations
19 committee shall be created only by majority vote of all members
20 appointed to the committee and with the prior approval of the
21 New Mexico legislative council. A subcommittee shall be
22 composed of at least one member from the senate and one member
23 from the house of representatives, and at least one member who
24 is not a member of the political party having the most members
25 in the legislature. All meetings and expenditures of a

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1 subcommittee shall be approved by the full committee in advance
2 of the meeting or expenditure, and the approval shall be shown
3 in the minutes of the committee.

4 SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] REPORT.--The legislative
5 institution and state-federal relations committee shall make an
6 interim report of its findings and recommendations for the
7 consideration of each session of the legislature. The reports
8 and proposed legislation shall be made available on or before
9 December 15 before each legislative session.

10 SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] STAFF.--The staff for the
11 legislative institution and state-federal relations committee
12 shall be provided by the legislative council service.

13 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION.--Fifty thousand dollars
14 (\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
15 legislature to be administered by the legislative council
16 service for expenditure in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for
17 expenses of the legislative institution and state-federal
18 relations committee. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
19 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert to the
20 general fund.