

1 HOUSE BILL 17
2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY
4 Charlotte Little and Sarah Silva and Reena Szczepanski
5 and Heather Berghmans and Natalie Figueroa
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10 AN ACT
11 RELATING TO CONSUMER RIGHTS; CREATING THE COMMISSION ON
12 REDUCTION OF GROCERY COSTS; REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE COST OF
13 GROCERIES; REQUIRING A REPORT WITH FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
14 BY NOVEMBER 15, 2025; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN
15 EMERGENCY.
16

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

18 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--COMMISSION ON REDUCTION
19 OF GROCERY COSTS--APPOINTMENT--PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS--
20 REQUIRING REPORTING.--

21 A. The "commission on reduction of grocery costs"
22 is created and shall function from the date of its appointment
23 until March 31, 2026.

24 B. The commission on reduction of grocery costs
25 consists of nine members, no more than five of whom shall be

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1 from the same political party, appointed as follows:

2 (1) the governor shall appoint three members;

3 (2) the New Mexico legislative council shall
4 appoint six members; and

5 (3) the appointing authorities shall make
6 every effort to ensure that:

7 (a) there is economic, geographic,
8 gender, cultural and racial diversity among the appointed
9 members; and

10 (b) members have expertise in economics,
11 consumer protection, agriculture, trade, food production or
12 nutrition.

13 C. The commission shall elect a chair and may elect
14 such officers as it deems necessary to carry out its duties.

15 D. Two absences from meetings of the commission
16 constitutes grounds for removal of a member of the commission.
17 Upon the request of the chair of the commission, the appointing
18 authority shall replace the member who has failed to attend two
19 meetings of the commission.

20 E. A majority of the members appointed constitutes
21 a quorum for the transaction of business. The support of a
22 majority of the members appointed is required for adoption of
23 any action by the commission.

24 F. The commission shall:

25 (1) review policies and develop policy

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1 proposals for reducing the cost of groceries for New Mexico's
2 consumers;

3 (2) recommend strategies to support food
4 businesses that produce locally grown, raised and processed raw
5 and value-added products and to expand access to those products
6 in retail grocery settings;

7 (3) evaluate whether increased investments in
8 supply chain infrastructure, including transportation, cold
9 storage and aggregation, would improve the resilience and
10 adaptability of the state's food system and reduce grocery
11 costs and grocery price volatility;

12 (4) evaluate the sufficiency of the state's
13 laws regarding price gouging, dynamic pricing and other price
14 manipulations that increase grocery costs for consumers;

15 (5) focus its efforts on the cost of essential
16 household foods, including eggs, milk, fresh produce, bread,
17 tortillas and foods with minimal processing;

18 (6) consider actions that the state can take
19 to insulate the state's consumers from the impact of any
20 federal trade agreements and changes that would increase
21 grocery costs for consumers; and

22 (7) consider any other policies or trends that
23 contribute to increased grocery costs for consumers and make
24 recommendations to reduce grocery costs.

25 G. The commission shall submit a report of its

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1 findings, including specific recommendations and proposed
2 legislation, to the governor, the New Mexico legislative
3 council and the appropriate legislative interim committee
4 dealing with consumer protections and the economy by November
5 15, 2025.

6 H. The commission shall hire or contract for
7 appropriate staff. Staff shall assist the commission as
8 directed by the chair, including conducting interviews with
9 persons that wish to express their views to the commission and
10 synthesizing information developed through interviews for the
11 commission. The commission may request assistance from the
12 legislative council service and the economic development
13 department.

14 I. Members of the commission are entitled to
15 compensation pursuant to the provisions of the Per Diem and
16 Mileage Act and shall receive no other perquisite, compensation
17 or allowance for their service on the commission.

18 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Four hundred thousand dollars
19 (\$400,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
20 economic development department for expenditure in fiscal years
21 2025 and 2026 to support the work of the commission on
22 reduction of grocery costs. Any unexpended or unencumbered
23 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2026 shall revert
24 to the general fund.

25 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public

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peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.