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HOUSE BILL 108

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Kristina Ortez and Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
and Reena Szczepanski and Javier Martínez

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH; CREATING THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH
AND CLIMATE PROGRAM; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public Health Act is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLIMATE
PROGRAM.--

A. By January 1, 2026, the environmental health
epidemiology bureau of the epidemiology and response division
of the department shall establish a statewide public health and
climate program.

B. In implementing the statewide public health and
climate program, the environmental health epidemiology bureau
shall:

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1 (1) help improve interagency collaboration
2 focused on health equity, reducing health impacts of extreme
3 weather and climate change adaptation in New Mexico;

4 (2) assist in the formulation of concrete,
5 coordinated and cohesive action plans supporting local
6 communities in building health resiliency to future climate
7 impacts;

8 (3) provide climate and public health
9 expertise to assist local community planning and response by
10 county and tribal public health councils together with the
11 environmental protection division of the department of
12 environment and the homeland security and emergency management
13 department in:

14 (a) making health-informed decisions
15 about current and future climate impacts;

16 (b) integrating the latest climate and
17 public health science into local, regional and statewide
18 emergency preparedness programs; and

19 (c) accessing federal and other funds
20 for climate adaptation; and

21 (4) facilitate meaningful agency and community
22 engagement within communities most harmed, or determined by
23 climate science as most likely to be harmed, by extreme weather
24 events."

25 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--One million one hundred

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1 thousand dollars (\$1,100,000) is appropriated from the general
2 fund to the department of health for expenditure in fiscal year
3 2026 to support the statewide public health and climate program
4 within the environmental health epidemiology bureau of the
5 epidemiology and response division of the department of health.
6 Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
7 fiscal year 2026 shall revert to the general fund.