

1 SENATE BILL 127

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Harold Pope

10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF  
12 THE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY ACT; CREATING THE HOMELESSNESS  
13 REDUCTION DIVISION OF THE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY; CREATING THE  
14 INTERAGENCY HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION TASK FORCE AND THE  
15 HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ADVISORY COUNCIL; MAKING AN  
16 APPROPRIATION.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-8-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,  
20 Chapter 252, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

21 "9-8-4. AUTHORITY ESTABLISHED.--The "health care  
22 authority" is created in the executive branch. The authority  
23 is a cabinet department and consists of:

24 A. the office of the secretary of health care  
25 authority;

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- B. the administrative services division;
- C. the information technology division;
- D. the behavioral health services division;
- E. the developmental disabilities division;
- F. the health improvement division;
- G. the medical assistance division;
- H. the state health benefits division;
- I. the homelessness reduction division;
- [I.] J. the child support enforcement division; and
- [J.] K. the income support division."

**SECTION 2.** A new section of the Health Care Authority Act is enacted to read:

"[ NEW MATERIAL ] HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION DIVISION--DUTIES.--

A. The "homelessness reduction division" is created in the authority and shall be led by the director of homelessness reduction, who shall:

(1) oversee the state's homelessness prevention efforts;

(2) serve as a policymaker and spokesperson on homelessness prevention;

(3) coordinate the state's efforts through legislation, rules and budgets; and

(4) communicate with federal and local experts on issues related to homelessness

B. The homelessness reduction division shall:

(1) develop and facilitate the implementation of a statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan directed

(a) decreasing homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization in the state;

(b) improving health and human services outcomes for persons who experience homelessness; and

(c) strengthening the safety nets that contribute to housing stability;

(2) create a statewide data system, which shall be known as the "homeless data integration system", that shall collect local data through homeless management information systems with the goal of matching data on homelessness to programs impacting homeless recipients of state programs;

(3) specify the form and substance of the required data elements of the homeless data integration system;

(4) identify mainstream resources, benefits and services that can be accessed to prevent and end homelessness in New Mexico;

(5) coordinate efforts to reduce homelessness across state agencies;

(6) serve within state government and in the state as an advocate for persons experiencing homelessness; and

(7) provide leadership for and collaborate

1 with persons developing and implementing local plans to end  
2 homelessness in New Mexico, including the homelessness  
3 reduction advisory council.

4 C. Upon the creation of the homeless data  
5 integration system, all continuums of care operating in New  
6 Mexico shall provide collected data elements, including health  
7 information, in a manner consistent with federal law, to the  
8 homeless data integration system.

9 D. Health information or personal identifying  
10 information provided to or maintained within the homeless data  
11 integration system shall not be subject to inspection pursuant  
12 to the Inspection of Public Records Act."

13 SECTION 3. A new section of the Health Care Authority Act  
14 is enacted to read:

15 "[NEW MATERIAL] INTERAGENCY HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION TASK  
16 FORCE--CREATED--DUTIES--

17 A. The "interagency homelessness reduction task  
18 force" is created and is administratively attached to the  
19 authority. The task force consists of the following members:

20 (1) the director of the homelessness reduction  
21 division of the authority;

22 (2) the chief executive officer of the New  
23 Mexico mortgage finance authority or the chief executive  
24 officer's designee;

25 (3) the secretary of economic development or

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1 the secretary's designee;

2 (4) the secretary of finance and

3 administration or the secretary's designee;

4 (5) the secretary of public education or the

5 secretary's designee;

6 (6) the secretary of higher education or the

7 secretary's designee;

8 (7) the secretary of Indian affairs or the

9 secretary's designee;

10 (8) the secretary of workforce solutions or

11 the secretary's designee;

12 (9) the secretary of corrections or the

13 secretary's designee;

14 (10) the secretary of veterans' services or

15 the secretary's designee;

16 (11) the secretary of children, youth and

17 families or the secretary's designee;

18 (12) the secretary of early childhood

19 education and care or the secretary's designee;

20 (13) the secretary of aging and long-term

21 services or the secretary's designee;

22 (14) the secretary of public safety or the

23 secretary's designee;

24 (15) the secretary of health or the

25 secretary's designee; and

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(16) the chair of the homelessness reduction advisory council.

B. The chair of the interagency homelessness reduction task force shall be the director of the homelessness reduction division of the authority or the director's designee, and the vice chair of the task force shall be the chair of the homelessness reduction advisory council. The task force shall meet at the call of the chair.

C. The interagency homelessness reduction task force shall advise the homelessness reduction division on initiatives for decreasing homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization in New Mexico, improving health and human services outcomes for persons who experience homelessness and strengthening the safety nets that contribute to housing stability.

D. The interagency homelessness reduction task force shall recommend:

(1) policy, regulatory and resource changes necessary to:

(a) accomplish goals and objectives set forth in the statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan; and

(b) ensure accountability, results and success in reducing homelessness;

(2) resources for successful implementation of

1 the statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan and oversee  
2 that implementation; and

3 (3) strategies for effective interagency  
4 collaboration and system integration to draft policies  
5 addressing the intersection of homelessness and poverty.

6 E. The interagency homelessness reduction task  
7 force may solicit feedback from stakeholders and advocates to  
8 advise the task force on policy and implementation  
9 recommendations.

10 F. By October 1, 2026, and each year thereafter,  
11 the interagency homelessness reduction task force shall submit  
12 a report to the governor, the appropriate interim legislative  
13 committee, the legislative finance committee and the  
14 homelessness reduction division regarding:

15 (1) the task force's work during the prior  
16 fiscal year;

17 (2) recommendations developed by the task  
18 force and those made by the homelessness reduction advisory  
19 council regarding implementation of the statewide strategic  
20 homelessness reduction plan and initiatives; and

21 (3) key outcomes and measures related to  
22 homelessness in New Mexico."

23 SECTION 4. A new section of the Health Care Authority Act  
24 is enacted to read:

25 "[NEW MATERIAL] HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ADVISORY COUNCIL--

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1           CREATED--DUTIES--MEMBERSHIP.--

2           A. The "homelessness reduction advisory council" is  
3 created and is administratively attached to the authority. The  
4 advisory council shall advise the interagency homelessness  
5 reduction task force and the director of the homelessness  
6 reduction division of the authority and recommend strategies  
7 to:

8                   (1) prevent and decrease homelessness and  
9 unnecessary institutionalization;

10                  (2) improve health and human services outcomes  
11 for persons experiencing homelessness;

12                  (3) strengthen the safety nets that contribute  
13 to housing stability; and

14                  (4) develop and achieve the goals of the  
15 statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan and initiatives  
16 pursuant to the provisions of Section 2 of this 2026 act.

17           B. The homelessness reduction advisory council  
18 consists of the following members appointed by the governor,  
19 who shall reflect the racial, ethnic and geographic diversity  
20 of New Mexico:

21                  (1) three members with lived experience of  
22 homelessness or housing insecurity, which may include formerly  
23 incarcerated persons, veterans and individuals sixteen to  
24 twenty-five years of age;

25                  (2) one member representing individuals with

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disabilities;

(3) two members representing the philanthropic private-funding sector;

(4) one member representing a statewide behavioral health advocacy organization;

(5) one member representing a statewide housing advocacy organization;

(6) two members representing local continuums of care organizations;

(7) three members representing regional or local units of government;

(8) one member representing an organization that supports victims of domestic violence; and

(9) four members representing providers of the homeless response system, including emergency supportive housing, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, homeless youth programs and homelessness prevention.

C. The director of the homelessness reduction division may appoint as ex-officio, nonvoting members of the homelessness reduction advisory council any state agency staff the director deems necessary.

D. The chair of the homelessness reduction advisory council shall be elected by the members of the advisory council

#### E. Public members of the homelessness reduction

1 advisory council may receive per diem and mileage pursuant to  
2 the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

3 F. The authority shall provide the necessary staff  
4 and administrative support to the homelessness reduction  
5 advisory council.

6 G. On or before September 1, 2026, and each year  
7 thereafter, the homelessness reduction advisory council shall  
8 submit its findings and recommendations to the interagency  
9 homelessness reduction task force."

10 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION.**--One million dollars  
11 (\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
12 health care authority for expenditure in fiscal year 2027 to  
13 fund the operation of the homelessness reduction division of  
14 the health care authority, the interagency homelessness  
15 reduction task force and the homelessness reduction advisory  
16 council. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of fiscal  
17 year 2027 shall revert to the general fund.

18 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The effective date of the  
19 provisions of this act is July 1, 2026.

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