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SENATE BILL 127

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

INTRODUCED BY

Harold Pope

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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1 B. the administrative services division;

2 C. the information technology division;

3 D. the behavioral health services division;

4 E. the developmental disabilities division;

5 F. the health improvement division;

6 G. the medical assistance division;

7 H. the state health benefits division;

8 I. the homelessness reduction division;

9 [~~I.~~] J. the child support enforcement division; and

10 [~~J.~~] K. the income support division."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 B. The homelessness reduction division shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25                  (7) provide leadership for and collaborate

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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

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

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

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

16 D. The interagency homelessness reduction task  
17 force shall recommend:

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

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

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

25 (2) resources for successful implementation of

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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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1 disabilities;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 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.