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SENATE BILL 36

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane M Garcia

FOR THE WELFARE REFORM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; AMENDING THE NEW MEXICO WORKS ACT TO PROVIDE EXPEDITED CHILD CARE.

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

Section 1. Section 27-2B-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1998, Chapter 8, Section 4 and Laws 1998, Chapter 9, Section 4) is amended to read:

"27-2B-4. APPLICATION-- RESOURCE PLANNING SESSION-- INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY PLANS-- PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT-- REVIEW PERIODS. --

A. Application for cash assistance or services shall be made to the department's county office in the county or district in which an applicant resides. The application shall be in writing or reduced to writing in the manner and on the form prescribed by the department. The application shall

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1 be made under oath by an applicant having custody of a  
2 dependent child and shall contain a statement of the age of  
3 the child, residence, a complete statement of the amount of  
4 property in which the applicant has an interest, a statement  
5 of all income that he and other household group members have  
6 at the time of the filing of the application and other  
7 information required by the department.

8 B. Application for expedited food stamps shall be  
9 made to the department's county office in the county or  
10 district in which an applicant resides. The department shall  
11 process the application for expedited food stamps within  
12 twenty-four hours after the application is made.

13 C. At the time of application for cash assistance  
14 and services, an applicant shall identify household group  
15 members who are to be counted in the benefit group. Once an  
16 application is approved, the participant shall advise the  
17 department if there are any changes in the membership of the  
18 household group or benefit group.

19 D. No later than forty-five days after an  
20 application is filed, the department shall provide to an  
21 applicant a resource planning session to ascertain his  
22 immediate needs, assess financial and nonfinancial options,  
23 make referrals and act on the application.

24 ~~[E. No later than five days after an application~~  
25 ~~is approved, the department shall provide reimbursement for~~

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1 ~~child care.]~~

2 E. Immediately after an application is approved,  
3 the children, youth and families department shall provide  
4 child-care services to the participant.

5 F. Whenever the department receives an application  
6 for assistance, a verification and record of the applicant's  
7 circumstances shall promptly be made to ascertain the facts  
8 supporting the application and to obtain other information  
9 required by the department. The verification may include a  
10 visit to the home of the applicant, as long as the department  
11 gives adequate prior notice of the visit to the applicant.

12 G. Within fifteen days after an application is  
13 approved, the department shall assess the education, skills,  
14 prior work experience and employability of the participant.

15 H. After the initial assessment of skills, the  
16 department shall work with the participant to develop an  
17 individual responsibility plan that:

18 (1) sets forth an employment goal for the  
19 participant and a plan for moving the participant into  
20 employment;

21 (2) sets forth obligations of the participant  
22 that may include a requirement that the participant attend  
23 school, maintain certain grades and attendance, keep his  
24 school-age children in school, immunize his children or engage  
25 in other activities that will help the participant become and

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1 remain employed;

2 (3) is designed to the greatest extent  
3 possible to move the participant into whatever employment the  
4 participant is capable of handling and to provide additional  
5 services as necessary to increase the responsibility and  
6 amount of work the participant will handle over time;

7 (4) describes the services the department may  
8 provide so that the participant may obtain and keep  
9 employment; and

10 (5) may require the participant to undergo  
11 appropriate substance abuse treatment.

12 I. The participant and a representative of the  
13 department shall sign the participant's individual  
14 responsibility plan.

15 J. The participant shall also sign a participation  
16 agreement that designates the number of hours that he must  
17 participate in work activities to meet participation  
18 standards.

19 K. The department shall review the current  
20 financial eligibility of a benefit group when the department  
21 reviews food stamp eligibility.

22 L. The department shall meet semi-annually with a  
23 participant to review and revise his individual responsibility  
24 plan.

25 M. The department shall develop a complaint

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1 procedure to address issues pertinent to the delivery of  
2 services and other issues relating to a participant's  
3 individual responsibility plan. "

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1 FORTY- FOURTH LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

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5 February 8, 1999

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7 Mr. President:

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9 Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been  
10 referred  
11

12  
13 SENATE BILL 36

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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
16 recommendation that it DO PASS, and thence referred to the  
17 FINANCE COMMITTEE.

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19 Respectfully submitted,  
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Shannon Robinson, Chairman

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Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

Yes: 5

No: 0

Excused: Boitano, Ingle, Stockard, Smith

Absent: None

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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999  
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6 February 9, 1999  
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8 Mr. President:  
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10 Your INDIAN & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom  
11 has been referred  
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13 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 36  
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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.  
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19 Respectfully submitted,  
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25 John Pinto, Chairman

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1 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not

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3 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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7 Date \_\_\_\_\_

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10 The roll call vote was 4 For 0 Against

11 Yes: 4

12 No: 0

13 Excused: Cisneros, McSorley, Vernon

14 Absent: None

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2 **FORTY- FOURTH LEGISLATURE**  
3 **FIRST SESSION, 1999**  
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7 **March 11, 1999**  
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10 **Mr. Speaker:**

11 **Your CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to**  
12 **whom has been referred**  
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14 **SENATE BILL 36**  
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16 **has had it under consideration and reports same with**  
17 **recommendation that it DO PASS.**

18 **Respectfully submitted,**  
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23 **Patsy Trujillo Knauer, Chairwoman**  
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1999

HCPAC/SB 36

Page 15

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 4 For 0 Against

Yes: 4

Excused: Hamilton, Hawkins, King

Absent: None

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