

HOUSE BILL 124

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

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS; CREATING THE NEW AMERICANS  
DIVISION IN THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING  
DIVISION DUTIES; REQUIRING REPORTS; REQUIRING A STUDY AND  
REPORT ON THE WORK, ECONOMIC IMPACT AND STRUCTURE OF REFUGEE  
RESETTLEMENT IN NEW MEXICO.

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

SECTION 1. Section 9-26-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,  
Chapter 200, Section 3) is amended to read:

"9-26-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Workforce Solutions  
Department Act:

A. "department" means the workforce solutions  
department;

B. "new Americans" means people residing in the  
United States who are not citizens of the United States or who

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1 were not citizens of the United States at birth; and

2 [B-] C. "secretary" means the secretary of  
3 workforce solutions."

4 SECTION 2. Section 9-26-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,  
5 Chapter 200, Section 4) is amended to read:

6 "9-26-4. WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT CREATED.--The  
7 "workforce solutions department" is created in the executive  
8 branch pursuant to the Executive Reorganization Act. The  
9 department is a cabinet department that includes:

- 10 A. the office of the secretary;
- 11 B. the administrative services division;
- 12 C. the [~~business services~~] unemployment insurance  
13 division;
- 14 D. the labor relations division;
- 15 E. the workforce technology division; [~~and~~]
- 16 F. the workforce transition services division; and
- 17 G. the new Americans division."

18 SECTION 3. A new section of the Workforce Solutions  
19 Department Act is enacted to read:

20 "[NEW MATERIAL] NEW AMERICANS DIVISION--PURPOSE--DUTIES.--

- 21 A. The purpose of the new Americans division of the  
22 department is to support new Americans residing in New Mexico  
23 in achieving their maximum economic potential in New Mexico's  
24 workforce and as entrepreneurs. In furtherance of this  
25 purpose, the division shall:

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1 (1) support and expand educational, workforce  
2 training and other initiatives that improve the integration of  
3 new Americans into the state's economy;

4 (2) identify strategies for improving  
5 licensure pathways for new Americans who have been  
6 professionally trained or licensed in another country;

7 (3) assist businesses that employ new  
8 Americans by identifying, attracting and retaining top global  
9 talent required to remain competitive in a global economy;

10 (4) identify and support pathways for new  
11 Americans to advance priority sectors identified in the state's  
12 workforce development and economic development plans; and

13 (5) serve as an information center by  
14 providing resources and engagement opportunities to businesses,  
15 community-based organizations, workers, community members,  
16 state agencies and local governments on policies and  
17 legislation affecting new Americans, including supporting  
18 eligible lawful permanent residents in becoming naturalized  
19 United States citizens.

20 B. The new Americans division shall, as deemed  
21 necessary and appropriate by the department, work with other  
22 divisions within the department, the economic development  
23 department, the higher education department, the public  
24 education department, the department of health, the health care  
25 authority, the homeland security and emergency management

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1 department, the department of public safety or the regulation  
2 and licensing department to fulfill the duties of the new  
3 Americans division.

4 C. By August 1, 2027, and by July 1 of each year  
5 thereafter, the new Americans division shall provide a report  
6 to an interim committee that studies economic and rural  
7 development and policy, the secretary, the governor and members  
8 of the legislature on the activities of the division in the  
9 preceding twelve months, including an analysis of the economic  
10 impact, status, population and workforce numbers of new  
11 Americans in the state."

12 SECTION 4. TEMPORARY PROVISION--STATE REFUGEE  
13 RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM--STUDY--REPORT.--

14 A. The new Americans division of the workforce  
15 solutions department shall study, evaluate and prepare a report  
16 on the work, economic impact and structure of refugee  
17 resettlement in New Mexico. As deemed necessary and  
18 appropriate, the division director shall consult with  
19 stakeholders, including representatives of the health care  
20 authority, the economic development department and community-  
21 based organizations.

22 B. The division shall report its findings to the  
23 interim committee that studies economic and rural development  
24 and policy by December 1, 2026.