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AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE; CREATING THE INTERIM HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE; CHANGING THE NAME OF THE JOINT INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE TO THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH COMMITTEE; CREATING A HEALTH UNIT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE.

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

Section 1. Section 2-13-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989, Chapter 349, Section 1) is amended to read:

"2-13-1. CREATION OF COMMITTEE--MEMBERS--APPOINTMENT--TERMS.--There is created a permanent joint interim committee of the legislature to be called the "legislative health committee". The committee shall be composed of ten members. The New Mexico legislative council shall appoint five members from the house of representatives and five members from the senate. The house health and government affairs committee and the senate public affairs committee shall be represented. At the time of making the appointment, the legislative council shall designate the chair and vice chair of the committee. Members shall be appointed so as to give the two major political parties in each house the same proportionate representation on the committee as prevails in each house; provided, in no event shall either of such parties have less than one member from each house on the committee. Members

1 may be removed from the committee by the legislative council,
2 at the request of the committee chair, for nonattendance
3 according to council policy. Vacancies on the committee,
4 however caused, may be filled by the legislative council, or
5 the council may reduce the size of the committee by not
6 making replacement appointments and in such case need not
7 readjust party representation. No action shall be taken by
8 the committee if a majority of the total membership from
9 either house on the committee rejects such action."

10 Section 2. Section 2-13-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
11 Chapter 349, Section 2) is amended to read:

12 "2-13-2. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE.--The legislative
13 health committee shall conduct a continuing study of the
14 programs, agencies, policies, issues and needs relating to
15 health, including review and study of the statutes,
16 constitutional provisions, regulations and court decisions
17 governing such programs, agencies and issues. The committee
18 shall oversee all aspects of medical assistance programs and
19 other health-related programs of the human services
20 department, the department of health, the aging and long-term
21 services department and the children, youth and families
22 department. The committee shall make an annual report of its
23 findings and recommendations and recommend any necessary
24 legislation to each session of the legislature."

25 Section 3. Section 2-13-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,

1 Chapter 349, Section 3) is amended to read:

2 "2-13-3. SUBCOMMITTEES.--Subcommittees shall be created
3 only by majority vote of all members appointed to the
4 legislative health committee and with the prior approval of
5 the New Mexico legislative council. A subcommittee shall be
6 composed of at least one member from the senate and one
7 member from the house of representatives, and at least one
8 member of the minority party shall be a member of the
9 subcommittee. All meetings and expenditures of a
10 subcommittee shall be approved by the full committee in
11 advance of such meeting or expenditure, and the approval
12 shall be shown in the minutes of the committee."

13 Section 4. Section 2-13-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
14 Chapter 349, Section 4) is amended to read:

15 "2-13-4. REPORT.--The legislative health committee
16 shall make a report of its findings and recommendations for
17 the consideration of each session of the legislature. The
18 report and suggested legislation shall be made available to
19 the New Mexico legislative council on or before December 15
20 preceding each session."

21 Section 5. Section 2-13-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
22 Chapter 349, Section 5) is amended to read:

23 "2-13-5. STAFF.--The staff for the legislative health
24 committee shall be provided by the health unit of the
25 legislative council service."

1 Section 6. Section 2-17-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1998,
2 Chapter 8, Section 21 and Laws 1998, Chapter 9, Section 21,
3 as amended by Laws 2003, Chapter 311, Section 1 and by Laws
4 2003, Chapter 432, Section 1) is amended to read:

5 "2-17-1. HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE CREATED--
6 TERMINATION.--The joint interim legislative "human services
7 committee" is created. The committee shall function from the
8 date of its appointment until December 15 prior to the first
9 session of the fifty-ninth legislature."

10 Section 7. Section 2-17-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1998,
11 Chapter 8, Section 22 and Laws 1998, Chapter 9, Section 22)
12 is amended to read:

13 "2-17-2. MEMBERSHIP--APPOINTMENT--VACANCIES.--

14 A. The human services committee shall be composed
15 of twelve members. The New Mexico legislative council shall
16 appoint six members from the house of representatives and six
17 members from the senate. At the time of making the
18 appointment, the legislative council shall designate the
19 chair and vice chair of the committee.

20 B. Members shall be appointed from each house so
21 as to give the two major political parties in each house the
22 same proportionate representation on the committee as
23 prevails in each house; however, in no event shall either
24 party have less than one member from each house on the
25 committee. At the request of the committee chair, members

1 may be removed from the committee by the New Mexico
2 legislative council for nonattendance according to
3 legislative council policy. Vacancies on the committee,
4 however caused, may be filled by the legislative council, or
5 the legislative council may reduce the size of the committee
6 by not making replacement appointments and in that case need
7 not readjust party representation.

8 C. An action shall not be taken by the committee
9 if a majority of the total membership from either house on
10 the committee rejects that action."

11 Section 8. Section 2-17-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1998,
12 Chapter 8, Section 23 and Laws 1998, Chapter 9, Section 23)
13 is amended to read:

14 "2-17-3. DUTIES.--

15 A. After its appointment, the human services
16 committee shall hold one organizational meeting to develop a
17 work plan and budget for the ensuing interim. The work plan
18 and budget shall be submitted to the New Mexico legislative
19 council for approval. Upon approval of the work plan and
20 budget by the legislative council, the committee shall:

21 (1) examine the statutes, constitutional
22 provisions and rules governing welfare reform in New Mexico;

23 (2) monitor and oversee the implementation
24 of the New Mexico Works Act;

25 (3) review issues related to job training

1 and public benefits programs and related contracts; cash
2 assistance; child care, transportation and other job-related
3 services; alleviation of poverty, homelessness and hunger and
4 other issues related to helping New Mexicans rise out of
5 poverty, take part in the work force and earn a
6 family-sustaining wage;

7 (4) make recommendations relating to the
8 adoption of rules and legislation, if any are found to be
9 necessary;

10 (5) conduct a continuing study of the
11 programs, agencies, policies, issues and needs relating to
12 human services in New Mexico, including review and study of
13 the statutes, constitutional provisions, regulations and
14 court decisions governing such programs, agencies, policies,
15 issues and needs; and

16 (6) study the full continuum of programs and
17 services available and needed for children, families and the
18 aging population.

19 B. The committee shall regularly receive testimony
20 from the secretaries of human services; workforce solutions;
21 children, youth and families; health; higher education; and
22 public education on poverty issues and shall review proposed
23 rules, schedules and formulae before adoption."

24 Section 9. Section 2-17-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1998,
25 Chapter 8, Section 24 and Laws 1998, Chapter 9, Section 24)

1 is amended to read:

2 "2-17-4. SUBCOMMITTEES.--Subcommittees shall be created
3 only by majority vote of all members appointed to the human
4 services committee and with the prior approval of the New
5 Mexico legislative council. A subcommittee shall be composed
6 of at least one member from the senate and one member from
7 the house of representatives, and at least one member of the
8 minority party shall be a member of the subcommittee. Any
9 meeting or expenditure of a subcommittee shall be approved by
10 the full committee in advance of that meeting or expenditure,
11 and the approval shall be shown in the minutes of the
12 committee."

13 Section 10. A new section of Chapter 2, Article 17 NMSA
14 1978 is enacted to read:

15 "STAFF.--The staff for the human services committee
16 shall be provided by the legislative council service."

17 Section 11. HEALTH UNIT.--

18 A. The legislative council service shall establish
19 a "health unit", staffed by persons knowledgeable and
20 proficient in the areas of health coverage and delivery of
21 health care services, health care economics, research, law or
22 policy analysis.

23 B. The health unit shall staff the legislative
24 health committee, conduct research and develop policy options
25 regarding health coverage and access to health care services,

1 provider supply and quality of health care services, health
2 coverage and other health issues.

3 Section 12. TEMPORARY PROVISION--REFERENCES IN LAW.--

4 All references in law to the welfare reform oversight
5 committee shall be deemed to be references to the human
6 services committee. All references in law to the legislative
7 health and human services committee shall be deemed to be
8 references to the legislative health committee. _____

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