

1 SENATE BILL 374

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gerald Ortiz y Pino

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION; CREATING THE OFFICE OF
12 PEACE; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; CREATING THE CITIZENS PEACE
13 ADVISORY COUNCIL.

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

16 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
17 "Office of Peace Act".

18 SECTION 2. PURPOSE.--The purpose of the Office of Peace
19 Act is to establish an office dedicated to peacemaking, social
20 justice and human rights; training that will enable the
21 prevention, management and resolution of conflict without
22 violence; and the study and implementation of appropriate
23 educational curricula at all levels and of conditions that are
24 conducive to a culture of peace.

25 SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Office of Peace

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1 Act:

2 A. "council" means the citizens peace advisory
3 council;

4 B. "dialogue" means a facilitated process of a
5 group of people taking turns talking and listening to each
6 other to allow an exchange of diverse ideas, information,
7 opinions and experiences to foster greater understanding
8 between people;

9 C. "director" means the director of the office;

10 D. "office" means the office of peace; and

11 E. "restorative justice" means a facilitated
12 process that allows everyone involved in a conflict to be heard
13 and take responsibility for any harm caused, seeks ways to
14 repair the harm and make things right as much as possible and
15 restores relationships and community.

16 SECTION 4. OFFICE ESTABLISHED.--The "office of peace" is
17 created. The office is administratively attached to the
18 department of finance and administration. For purposes of this
19 section, the term "administratively attached" has the meaning
20 specified in Section 9-1-7 NMSA 1978.

21 SECTION 5. DIRECTOR--APPOINTMENT.--

22 A. The administrative head of the office is the
23 "director of the office of peace", who shall be appointed by
24 the governor with the consent of the senate.

25 B. The director shall be an administrator who has

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1 shown successful administrative experience and has no fewer
2 than eighty hours of training in alternative dispute
3 resolution, mediation, dialogue or restorative justice and at
4 least two years of experience in applying these skills in a
5 community setting or equivalent life experience.

6 C. The director shall serve and have all the
7 duties, responsibilities and authority of the office during the
8 time prior to final action by the senate confirming or
9 rejecting the appointment.

10 SECTION 6. DIRECTOR--DUTIES.--

11 A. The director is responsible to the governor for
12 the operation of the office. The director shall manage all
13 operations of the office. The director may employ professional
14 and clerical assistance, contractors and general counsel as
15 deemed necessary and oversee staff performance, setting
16 priorities within time and budget constraints. The director
17 may accept grants and gifts on behalf of the office. The
18 director shall apply the resources and skills of the office
19 statewide to the following areas: prevention, management and
20 resolution of conflict; public education on peace and
21 nonviolence; the study and promotion of social, environmental
22 and economic conditions that create a culture of peace; and the
23 development of a peace education curriculum, including
24 restorative justice programs, with educators and schools at all
25 levels.

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B. The director shall:

(1) assist in the analysis and growth of existing policies and programs and develop new approaches and encourage innovation, in collaboration and coordination with established institutional and agency efforts and nongovernmental organizations, including alternative dispute resolution centers, statewide peace studies programs, statewide peace and justice centers, public school peer mediation and dialogue and restorative justice programs;

(2) help integrate the peace education curriculum into the training programs for new and experienced teachers and recommend peace studies courses as part of teacher education in New Mexico;

(3) provide peace education grants for the creation and expansion of peace studies programs and practice at all educational levels and provide grants to nonviolent communication and nonviolent conflict resolution programs and local nongovernmental peace-building initiatives; and

(4) gather information on effective community peace-building activities and disseminate the information by sponsoring and organizing conferences to create awareness of the activities of the office by facilitating a forum for discussing peace issues and studies and by exploring the meaning and practice of peace in the lives of New Mexicans.

SECTION 7. COUNCIL--CREATION--MEMBERS--RESPONSIBILITIES.--

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1 A. The "citizens peace advisory council" is created
2 and shall be composed of the director and eleven appointed
3 members as follows, who reflect a concern for the integrity of
4 the environment and the creative imagination of the arts and
5 the multicultural, gender, economic, geographic and political
6 diversity of the people of New Mexico:

7 (1) two representatives from established state
8 or local peace advocacy organizations, appointed by the
9 director;

10 (2) one representative from the New Mexico
11 faith community, appointed by the director;

12 (3) one representative from a local, county or
13 state law enforcement agency who has specialized in violence
14 prevention, appointed by the secretary of public safety;

15 (4) one health professional with expertise in
16 behavioral and public health issues, appointed by the secretary
17 of health;

18 (5) one representative from the New Mexico
19 mediation association, appointed by that organization's body;

20 (6) one veteran who has served in an armed
21 conflict, appointed by the secretary of veterans' services;

22 (7) one public school educator with knowledge
23 of peace curriculum development, appointed by the secretary of
24 public education;

25 (8) one representative of the university of

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1 New Mexico's peace studies program, appointed by that program's
2 body;

3 (9) one youth representative, between the ages
4 of fifteen and twenty-four years, appointed by the lieutenant
5 governor; and

6 (10) one member appointed by the secretary of
7 Indian affairs.

8 B. The term of service of appointed council members
9 shall be four years. The initial terms shall be staggered.
10 The terms of six members shall expire at the end of the initial
11 two years, and the terms of five members shall expire at the
12 end of the initial four years. The initial terms shall be
13 selected by random drawing. An appointed citizen member of the
14 council shall not serve more than two full terms. In the event
15 of a vacancy on the council, a new member shall be appointed by
16 the original appointing authority for the unexpired term.

17 C. The council shall select a chair, a vice chair
18 and other officers as it deems necessary.

19 D. The council shall meet no less than twice
20 annually and may meet more frequently upon the call of the
21 chair. The council shall:

22 (1) use the dialogue process in its
23 interactions with each other and the staff;

24 (2) provide assistance and make
25 recommendations to the director and the governor concerning

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1 peace-related policies and practices;

2 (3) annually, assess peace-related activities
3 in the state and submit a report to the director and the
4 governor reviewing the impact of state peace activities on
5 governmental entities and communities; and

6 (4) publicize and allot time to receive and
7 report citizen input at regular council meetings, maintaining a
8 grassroots connection with the citizens of New Mexico.

9 SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
10 provisions of this act is July 1, 2011.