

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE BILL 488

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. López

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS THAT COMPRISE THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE; ASSIGNING DUTIES; PROVIDING FOR YEAR-ROUND STAFF; REQUIRING STATE AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE'S AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEES' REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION; ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE'S AND SUBCOMMITTEES' POWER TO ADMINISTER OATHS AND ISSUE SUBPOENAS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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.--

A. There is created a permanent joint [~~interim~~]

.230955.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 committee of the legislature to be called the "legislative
2 health and human services committee". The committee shall be
3 composed of ~~[eight]~~ twelve members. ~~[The legislative council~~
4 ~~shall appoint four]~~ Six members from the house of
5 representatives ~~[and four]~~ shall be appointed by the speaker of
6 the house of representatives. Six members from the senate ~~[At~~
7 ~~the time of making the appointment, the legislative council~~
8 ~~shall designate the chairman and vice chairman of the~~
9 ~~committee]~~ shall be appointed by the committees' committee of
10 the senate or, if the senate appointments are made in the
11 interim, by the president pro tempore of the senate after
12 consultation with and agreement of a majority of the members of
13 the committees' committee. Members shall be appointed so as to
14 give the two major political parties in each house the same
15 proportionate representation on the committee as prevails in
16 each house; provided that in no event shall either of such
17 parties have less than one member from each house on the
18 committee. ~~[Members may be removed from the committee by the~~
19 ~~legislative council, at the request of the committee chairman,~~
20 ~~for nonattendance according to council policy.]~~ Vacancies on
21 the committee, however caused, may be filled ~~[by the~~
22 ~~legislative council, or the council may reduce the size of the~~
23 ~~committee by not making replacement appointments and in such~~
24 ~~case need not readjust party representation]~~ for the unexpired
25 term by appointment from the house of representatives or senate

.230955.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 by the respective appointing authority that makes the original
2 appointments and subject to the same recommendations; provided
3 that the new members shall be from the same house of the
4 legislature and the same party from which their predecessors
5 were appointed. No action shall be taken by the committee if a
6 majority of the total membership from either house on the
7 committee rejects such action.

8 B. The chair and vice chair shall be appointed for
9 terms coterminous with their membership on the committee. The
10 chair and vice chair shall alternate between the respective
11 houses every two years. For the terms beginning in 2025, the
12 chair shall be a house member, and the vice chair shall be a
13 senate member. The appointing authority of each house shall
14 exercise its appointing authority by naming the chair and vice
15 chair, respectively, on this alternating basis."

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

18 "2-13-2. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE.--The legislative health
19 and human services committee shall [~~conduct a continuing study~~
20 ~~of~~] monitor and oversee the programs, agencies, policies,
21 issues and needs relating to health and human services,
22 including [~~review and study~~] monitoring and oversight of the
23 statutes, constitutional provisions, regulations and court
24 decisions governing such programs, agencies, policies and
25 issues. The committee shall also [~~study~~] monitor and oversee

.230955.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1 the full continuum of programs and services available and
2 needed for children and families and the aging population. The
3 committee shall make an annual report of its findings and
4 recommendations and recommend any necessary legislation to each
5 session of the legislature."

6 SECTION 3. Section 2-13-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
7 Chapter 349, Section 5) is amended to read:

8 "2-13-5. STAFF.--The [~~staff for the~~] legislative health
9 and human services committee shall [~~be provided by the~~
10 ~~legislative council service~~] have a year-round staff assigned
11 exclusively to carrying out the duties of the committee. The
12 legislative council service shall provide the staff for the
13 legislative health and human services committee, which shall
14 include individuals with expertise in law, policy or finance
15 related to health care delivery or finance or to human services
16 matters."

17 SECTION 4. A new Section 2-13-6 NMSA 1978 is enacted to
18 read:

19 "2-13-6. [NEW MATERIAL] COMPLIANCE WITH REQUESTS FOR
20 INFORMATION.--Each agency or institution of the state and its
21 political subdivisions shall furnish and make available to the
22 legislative health and human services committee or any of its
23 subcommittees such documents, material or information not made
24 confidential by law and that are requested by the committee or
25 any of its subcommittees upon a majority vote of the respective

.230955.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 members of the committee or its subcommittees."

2 SECTION 5. A new Section 2-13-7 NMSA 1978 is enacted to
3 read:

4 "2-13-7. [NEW MATERIAL] SUBPOENA POWER.--The legislative
5 health and human services committee may conduct hearings and
6 administer oaths. The legislative health and human services
7 committee may issue a subpoena upon a vote of a majority of the
8 members of the committee. The subpoena may be enforced through
9 any district court of the state. Process of the committee
10 shall be served by any sheriff or any member of the New Mexico
11 state police and shall be served without cost to the committee
12 or its subcommittees."

13 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars
14 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
15 legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal years
16 2025 and 2026 to fund staffing for and the activities of the
17 legislative health and human services committee pursuant to
18 this act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at
19 the end of fiscal year 2026 shall revert to the general fund.