

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Eleanor Chávez and Javier Martínez and Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson  
5 and Pamelya Herndon  
6  
7  
8  
9

10 A JOINT RESOLUTION

11 PROPOSING TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO BY ADDING A  
12 NEW SECTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF THE CHILDREN, YOUTH  
13 AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT, A CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES  
14 COMMISSION AND AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ASSUME THE MANAGEMENT  
15 AND OPERATIONS OF THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT  
16 AND ENFORCE THE LAWS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT'S JURISDICTION.  
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

19 SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend the constitution of  
20 New Mexico by adding a new section to read:

21 "A. The "children, youth and families commission"  
22 and "children, youth and families department" are created and  
23 shall each have such powers and duties as provided by law.

24 B. The children, youth and families commission  
25 consists of five members who shall be appointed for six-year

.229080.3

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

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

1 terms. Beginning January 1, 2027, the governor, the president  
2 pro tempore of the senate, the speaker of the house of  
3 representatives, the minority floor leader of the senate and  
4 the minority floor leader of the house of representatives shall  
5 each appoint one member as provided by law. For the initial  
6 appointment of commission members, the member appointed by the  
7 governor shall serve for a term of two years and the members  
8 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, the  
9 president pro tempore of the senate, the minority floor leader  
10 of the senate and the minority floor leader of the house of  
11 representatives shall each serve a term of four years.

12 Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by the original  
13 appointing authority, and a person appointed to fill a vacancy  
14 shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. Members  
15 of the children, youth and families commission shall only be  
16 removed as provided by law. The legislature shall provide by  
17 law for the professional qualifications for members of the  
18 children, youth and families commission.

19 C. No later than July 1, 2027, the children, youth  
20 and families commission shall hire an executive director to  
21 assume the management and operations of the children, youth and  
22 families department and enforce the laws under the jurisdiction  
23 of the children, youth and families department. The  
24 legislature shall provide by law for the professional  
25 qualifications of the executive director of the children, youth

.229080.3

1 and families commission."

2 SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution  
3 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or  
4 rejection at the next general election or at any special  
5 election prior to that date that may be called for that  
6 purpose.

7 - 3 -  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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