

1 SENATE BILL 368

2 **55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO GOVERNMENTAL ACCESSIBILITY; REQUIRING ALL STATE
12 DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE FULL ACCESS TO STATE PROGRAMS FOR
13 INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH.

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

16 SECTION 1. Section 9-1-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,
17 Chapter 248, Section 5) is amended to read:

18 "9-1-5. SECRETARY--DUTIES AND GENERAL POWERS.--

19 A. The secretary is responsible to the governor for
20 the operation of the department. It is [~~his~~] the secretary's
21 duty to manage all operations of the department and to
22 administer and enforce the laws with which [~~he~~] the secretary
23 or the department is charged.

24 B. To perform [~~his~~] the secretary's duties, the
25 secretary has every power expressly enumerated in the laws,

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1 whether granted to the secretary or the department or any
2 division of the department, except where authority conferred
3 upon any division [~~therein~~] is explicitly exempted from the
4 secretary's authority by statute. In accordance with these
5 provisions, the secretary shall:

6 (1) except as otherwise provided in [~~this~~] the
7 Executive Reorganization Act, exercise general supervisory and
8 appointing authority over all department employees, subject to
9 any applicable personnel laws and regulations;

10 (2) delegate authority to subordinates as [~~he~~]
11 the secretary deems necessary and appropriate, clearly
12 delineating such delegated authority and the limitations
13 thereto;

14 (3) organize the department into those
15 organizational units [~~he~~] the secretary deems will enable it to
16 function most efficiently, subject to any provisions of law
17 requiring or establishing specific organizational units;

18 (4) within the limitations of available
19 appropriations and applicable laws, employ and fix the
20 compensation of those persons necessary to discharge [~~his~~] the
21 secretary's duties;

22 (5) take administrative action by issuing
23 orders and instructions, not inconsistent with the law, to
24 assure implementation of and compliance with the provisions of
25 law [~~with the~~] for whose administration or execution [~~of which~~

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1 he] the secretary is responsible and to enforce those orders
2 and instructions by appropriate administrative action or
3 actions in the courts;

4 (6) conduct research and studies that will
5 improve the operations of the department and the provision of
6 services to the [~~citizens~~] residents of the state;

7 (7) provide courses of instruction and
8 practical training for employees of the department and other
9 persons involved in the administration of programs with the
10 objective of improving the operations and efficiency of
11 administration;

12 (8) prepare an annual budget of the
13 department;

14 (9) provide cooperation, at the request of
15 heads of administratively attached agencies and adjunct
16 agencies, in order to:

17 (a) minimize or eliminate duplication of
18 services and jurisdictional conflicts;

19 (b) coordinate activities and resolve
20 problems of mutual concern; and

21 (c) resolve by agreement the manner and
22 extent to which the department shall provide budgeting,
23 [~~record-keeping~~] recordkeeping and related clerical assistance
24 to administratively attached agencies;

25 (10) develop and implement a departmental plan

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1 to provide full access to state programs for individuals with
2 limited English proficiency that includes:

3 (a) an annual public assessment,
4 submitted to the governor, that details the need for
5 departmental services to improve access for individuals with
6 limited English proficiency;

7 (b) the department's plan to meet the
8 needs identified in the assessment, including interpretation
9 and translation services and bilingual staffing;

10 (c) the cost, including competitive
11 salary structures for employees with multilingual
12 proficiencies, to implement the departmental plan to provide
13 full language access to state programs; and

14 (d) submitting an annual report to the
15 governor and the legislative finance committee regarding the
16 implementation of the department's language access plan;
17 provided that the legislative finance committee and the
18 department of finance and administration shall not grant budget
19 adjustment request authority to a department that does not
20 submit an annual report to the governor and the legislative
21 finance committee;

22 ~~(10)~~ (11) appoint, with the governor's
23 consent, a "director" for each division [~~a "director"~~]. These
24 appointed positions are exempt from the provisions of the
25 Personnel Act. Persons appointed to these positions shall

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1 serve at the pleasure of the secretary;

2 [~~(11)~~] (12) give bond in the penal sum of
3 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and require directors to
4 each give bond in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars
5 (\$10,000) conditioned upon the faithful performance of duties,
6 as provided in the Surety Bond Act. The department shall pay
7 the costs of [~~such~~] these bonds; and

8 [~~(12)~~] (13) require performance bonds of such
9 department employees and officers as [~~he~~] the secretary deems
10 necessary, as provided in the Surety Bond Act. The department
11 shall pay the costs of [~~such~~] these bonds.

12 C. The secretary may apply for and receive, with
13 the governor's approval, in the name of the department any
14 public or private funds, including but not limited to United
15 States government funds, available to the department to carry
16 out its programs, duties or services.

17 D. Where functions of departments overlap or a
18 function assigned to one department could better be performed
19 by another department, a secretary may recommend appropriate
20 legislation to the next session of the legislature for its
21 approval.

22 E. The secretary may make and adopt such reasonable
23 [~~and~~] procedural rules [~~and regulations~~] as may be necessary to
24 carry out the duties of the department and its divisions. No
25 rule [~~or regulation~~] promulgated by the director of any

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1 division in carrying out the functions and duties of the
2 division shall be effective until approved by the secretary
3 unless otherwise provided by statute. Unless otherwise
4 provided by statute, no ~~[regulation]~~ rule affecting any person
5 or agency outside the department shall be adopted, amended or
6 repealed without a public hearing on the proposed action before
7 the secretary or a hearing officer designated by ~~[him]~~ the
8 secretary. The public hearing shall be held in Santa Fe unless
9 otherwise permitted by statute. Notice of the subject matter
10 of the ~~[regulation]~~ rule, the action proposed to be taken, the
11 time and place of the hearing, the manner in which interested
12 persons may present their views and the method by which copies
13 of the proposed ~~[regulation]~~ rule or proposed amendment or
14 repeal of an existing ~~[regulation]~~ rule may be obtained shall
15 be published once at least thirty days prior to the hearing
16 date in a newspaper of general circulation and mailed at least
17 thirty days prior to the hearing date to all persons who have
18 made a written request for advance notice of hearing. All
19 rules ~~[and regulations]~~ shall be filed in accordance with the
20 State Rules Act.

21 F. If this section conflicts with the powers and
22 duties specifically given by statute to a particular secretary,
23 the specific powers and duties shall control. If this section
24 conflicts with other statutes specifically limiting the powers
25 of a secretary, the specific limitations shall control."

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SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2021.