

HOUSE BILL 219

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Eleanor Chávez and Tara Jaramillo and Marian Matthews

AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN; REQUIRING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT CASELOAD STANDARDS FOR INVESTIGATION CASE WORKERS, PERMANENCY PLANNING WORKERS, IN-HOME SERVICES PROVIDERS AND PLACEMENT WORKERS; REQUIRING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION WHEN THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT ADHERE TO CASELOAD STANDARDS.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of the Children's Code is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] CASELOAD STANDARDS--INVESTIGATION CASE WORKERS--PERMANENCY PLANNING WORKERS--IN-HOME SERVICES PROVIDERS--PLACEMENT WORKERS.--The department shall implement the following caseload standards:

.223593.2

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1 A. for investigation case workers, the standard
2 shall be:

3 (1) no more than twelve active cases or
4 families total;

5 (2) no primary assignments for the first two
6 months after the completion of a new employee training program;

7 (3) no more than three primary assignments at
8 a time three to four months after the completion of a new
9 employee training program; and

10 (4) no more than six primary assignments at a
11 time five to six months after the completion of a new employee
12 training program;

13 B. for permanency planning workers, the standard
14 shall be:

15 (1) no more than fifteen children on a
16 caseload at a time;

17 (2) no more than five children at a time,
18 assigned as primary, for two months after the completion of a
19 new employee training program, and these cases shall only
20 consist of transferred cases;

21 (3) no more than eight primary case
22 assignments at a time three to four months after the completion
23 of a new employee training program, and this can include new
24 cases; and

25 (4) no more than twelve primary case

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1 assignments at a time five to six months after the completion
2 of a new employee training program;

3 C. for in-home services providers, the standard
4 shall be no more than eight cases or families total; and

5 D. for investigation case workers, the standard
6 shall be:

7 (1) no more than twelve active cases or
8 families total;

9 (2) no primary assignments for the first two
10 months after the completion of a new employee training program;

11 (3) no more than three primary assignments at
12 a time three to four months after the completion of a new
13 employee training program; and

14 (4) no more than six primary assignments at a
15 time five to six months after the completion of a new employee
16 training program."

17 SECTION 2. A new section of the Children's Code is
18 enacted to read:

19 "[NEW MATERIAL] ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION--TIERS--
20 INVESTIGATION CASE WORKERS--PERMANENCY PLANNING WORKERS--
21 IN-HOME SERVICES PROVIDERS--PLACEMENT WORKERS.--

22 A. If the caseload standards in Section 1 of this
23 2023 act are not adhered to by the department, the department
24 shall follow the compensation scales as provided in Subsection
25 B of this section and provide additional compensation for
.223593.2

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1 investigation case workers, permanency planning workers,
2 in-home services providers and placement workers.

3 B. The following compensation tiers shall take
4 effect if the department does not adhere to the caseload
5 standards in Section 1 of this 2023 act:

6 (1) if an investigation case worker has:

7 (a) thirteen to twenty-four active
8 cases, the investigation case worker shall receive an
9 additional five dollars (\$5.00) per hour in addition to the
10 base hourly salary;

11 (b) twenty-five to thirty-six active
12 cases, the investigation case worker shall receive an
13 additional seven dollars (\$7.00) per hour in addition to the
14 base hourly salary; and

15 (c) thirty-seven or more active cases,
16 the investigation case worker shall receive an additional ten
17 dollars (\$10.00) per hour in addition to the base hourly
18 salary;

19 (2) if a permanency planning worker has:

20 (a) sixteen to thirty children on the
21 permanency planning worker's caseload, the permanency planning
22 worker shall receive an additional five dollars (\$5.00) per
23 hour in addition to the base hourly salary;

24 (b) thirty-one to forty-five children on
25 the permanency planning worker's caseload, the permanency

.223593.2

1 planning worker shall receive an additional seven dollars
2 (\$7.00) per hour in addition to the base hourly salary; and

3 (c) forty-six or more active cases, the
4 permanency planning worker shall receive an additional ten
5 dollars (\$10.00) per hour in addition to the base hourly
6 salary;

7 (3) if an in-home services provider has:

8 (a) nine to sixteen active cases or
9 families, the in-home services provider shall receive an
10 additional five dollars (\$5.00) per hour in addition to the
11 base hourly salary;

12 (b) seventeen to twenty-four active
13 cases or families, the in-home services provider shall receive
14 an additional seven dollars (\$7.00) per hour in addition to the
15 base hourly salary; and

16 (c) twenty-five or more active cases or
17 families, the in-home services provider shall receive an
18 additional ten dollars (\$10.00) per hour in addition to the
19 base hourly salary; and

20 (4) if a placement worker has:

21 (a) thirteen to twenty-four active
22 cases, the placement worker shall receive an additional five
23 dollars (\$5.00) per hour in addition to the base hourly salary;

24 (b) twenty-five to thirty-six active
25 cases, the placement worker shall receive an additional seven

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1 dollars (\$7.00) per hour in addition to the base hourly salary;
2 and

3 (c) thirty-seven or more active cases,
4 the placement worker shall receive an additional ten dollars
5 (\$10.00) per hour in addition to the base hourly salary."

6 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
7 provisions of this act is July 1, 2023.

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