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SENATE BILL 190

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

INTRODUCED BY

Harold Pope

AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY ACT; CREATING THE HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION DIVISION OF THE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY; CREATING THE INTERAGENCY HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION TASK FORCE AND THE HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ADVISORY COUNCIL; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 9-8-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977, Chapter 252, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

"9-8-4. AUTHORITY ESTABLISHED.--The "health care authority" is created in the executive branch. The authority is a cabinet department and consists of:

A. the office of the secretary of health care authority;

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- 1 B. the administrative services division;
- 2 C. the information technology division;
- 3 D. the behavioral health services division;
- 4 E. the developmental disabilities division;
- 5 F. the health improvement division;
- 6 G. the medical assistance division;
- 7 H. the state health benefits division;
- 8 I. the homelessness reduction division;
- 9 [~~J.~~] J. the child support enforcement division; and
- 10 [~~K.~~] K. the income support division."

11 SECTION 2. A new section of the Health Care Authority Act
12 is enacted to read:

13 "[NEW MATERIAL] HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION DIVISION--DUTIES.--

14 A. The homelessness reduction division of the
15 authority shall be led by the director of homelessness
16 reduction, who shall lead the state's comprehensive efforts
17 related to homelessness prevention and serve as a policymaker
18 and spokesperson on homelessness prevention, including
19 coordinating the state's efforts through legislation, rules and
20 budgets, and shall communicate with federal and local experts
21 on issues related to homelessness.

22 B. The homelessness reduction division shall:
23 (1) develop and facilitate the implementation
24 of a statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan directed
25 at:

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1 (a) decreasing homelessness and
2 unnecessary institutionalization in the state;

3 (b) improving health and human services
4 outcomes for persons who experience homelessness; and

5 (c) strengthening the safety nets that
6 contribute to housing stability;

7 (2) create a statewide data system, which
8 shall be known as the "homeless data integration system", that
9 shall collect local data through homeless management
10 information systems with the goal of matching data on
11 homelessness to programs impacting homeless recipients of state
12 programs;

13 (3) specify the form and substance of the
14 required data elements of the homeless data integration system
15 and may, as required by operational necessity, amend or modify
16 data elements, disclosure formats or disclosure frequency;

17 (4) identify mainstream resources, benefits
18 and services that can be accessed to prevent and end
19 homelessness in New Mexico;

20 (5) coordinate efforts to reduce homelessness
21 across state agencies;

22 (6) serve within state government and in the
23 state at large as an advocate for persons experiencing
24 homelessness; and

25 (7) provide leadership for and collaborate

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1 with persons developing and implementing local plans to end
2 homelessness in New Mexico, including the homelessness
3 reduction advisory council.

4 C. Upon the creation of the homeless data
5 integration system, all continuums of care operating in New
6 Mexico shall provide collected data elements, including health
7 information, in a manner consistent with federal law, to the
8 homeless data integration system.

9 D. Health information or personal identifying
10 information provided to or maintained within the homeless data
11 integration system shall not be subject to inspection pursuant
12 to the Inspection of Public Records Act."

13 SECTION 3. A new section of the Health Care Authority Act
14 is enacted to read:

15 "[NEW MATERIAL] INTERAGENCY HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION TASK
16 FORCE--CREATED--DUTIES.--

17 A. The "interagency homelessness reduction task
18 force" is created and is administratively attached to the
19 authority. The task force consists of the following members:

20 (1) the director of the homelessness reduction
21 division of the authority;

22 (2) the chief executive officer of the New
23 Mexico finance authority or the chief executive officer's
24 designee;

25 (3) the secretary of economic development or

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1 the secretary's designee;

2 (4) the secretary of finance and
3 administration or the secretary's designee;

4 (5) the secretary of public education or the
5 secretary's designee;

6 (6) the secretary of higher education or the
7 secretary's designee;

8 (7) the secretary of Indian affairs or the
9 secretary's designee;

10 (8) the secretary of workforce solutions or
11 the secretary's designee;

12 (9) the secretary of corrections or the
13 secretary's designee;

14 (10) the secretary of veterans' services or
15 the secretary's designee;

16 (11) the secretary of children, youth and
17 families or the secretary's designee;

18 (12) the secretary of early childhood
19 education and care or the secretary's designee;

20 (13) the secretary of aging and long-term
21 services or the secretary's designee;

22 (14) the secretary of public safety or the
23 secretary's designee;

24 (15) the secretary of health or the
25 secretary's designee; and

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1 (16) the chair of the homelessness reduction
2 advisory council.

3 B. The chair of the interagency homelessness
4 reduction task force shall be the director of the homelessness
5 reduction division of the authority or the director's designee,
6 and the vice chair of the task force shall be the chair of the
7 homelessness reduction advisory council. The task force shall
8 meet at the call of the chair.

9 C. The interagency homelessness reduction task
10 force shall advise the homelessness reduction division
11 regarding initiatives related to decreasing homelessness and
12 unnecessary institutionalization in New Mexico, improving
13 health and human services outcomes for persons who experience
14 homelessness and strengthening the safety nets that contribute
15 to housing stability.

16 D. The interagency homelessness reduction task
17 force shall:

18 (1) recommend policy, regulatory and resource
19 changes necessary to accomplish goals and objectives set forth
20 in the statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan;

21 (2) recommend the resources needed for
22 successful implementation of the statewide strategic
23 homelessness reduction plan and oversee that implementation;

24 (3) recommend and promote effective
25 interagency collaboration and system integration to converge

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1 related efforts to draft policy recommendations related to the
2 intersection of homelessness and poverty; and

3 (4) recommend policy, regulatory and resource-
4 distribution changes that will help ensure accountability,
5 results and sustained success in reducing homelessness,
6 including specific legislative proposals and recommendations
7 for consideration.

8 E. The interagency homelessness reduction task
9 force may solicit feedback from stakeholders and advocates to
10 advise the task force on policy and implementation
11 recommendations.

12 F. On or before October 1, 2025, and each year
13 thereafter, the interagency homelessness reduction task force
14 shall submit a report to the governor, the appropriate interim
15 legislative committee, the legislative finance committee and
16 the homelessness reduction division regarding:

17 (1) the task force's work during the prior
18 fiscal year;

19 (2) recommendations developed by the task
20 force and those made by the homelessness reduction advisory
21 council regarding implementation of the statewide strategic
22 homelessness reduction plan and initiatives; and

23 (3) key outcomes and measures related to
24 homelessness in New Mexico."

25 SECTION 4. A new section of the Health Care Authority Act

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1 is enacted to read:

2 "[NEW MATERIAL] HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ADVISORY COUNCIL--
3 CREATED--DUTIES--MEMBERSHIP.--

4 A. The "homelessness reduction advisory council" is
5 created and is administratively attached to the authority. The
6 advisory council shall advise and make recommendations to the
7 interagency homelessness reduction task force and the director
8 of the homelessness reduction division of the authority
9 regarding:

10 (1) homelessness and unnecessary
11 institutionalization with the goals of reducing and preventing
12 homelessness;

13 (2) improving health and human services
14 outcomes for persons experiencing homelessness;

15 (3) strengthening the safety nets that
16 contribute to housing stability; and

17 (4) developing and achieving the goals of the
18 statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan and initiatives
19 pursuant to the provisions of Section 2 of this 2025 act.

20 B. The homelessness reduction advisory council
21 consists of the following members appointed by the governor,
22 who shall reflect the racial, ethnic and geographic diversity
23 of New Mexico:

24 (1) three members with lived experience of
25 homelessness or housing insecurity, which may include formerly

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1 incarcerated persons, veterans and individuals sixteen to
2 twenty-five years of age;

3 (2) one member representing individuals with
4 disabilities;

5 (3) two members representing the philanthropic
6 private-funding sector;

7 (4) one member representing a statewide
8 behavioral health advocacy organization;

9 (5) one member representing a statewide
10 housing advocacy organization;

11 (6) two members representing local continuums
12 of care organizations;

13 (7) three members representing regional or
14 local units of government;

15 (8) one member representing an organization
16 that supports victims of domestic violence; and

17 (9) four members representing providers of the
18 homeless response system, including emergency supportive
19 housing, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing,
20 homeless youth programs and homelessness prevention.

21 C. The director of the homelessness reduction
22 division may appoint as ex-officio, nonvoting members of the
23 homelessness reduction advisory council any state agency staff
24 the director deems necessary.

25 D. The chair of the homelessness reduction advisory

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1 council shall be elected by the members of the advisory
2 council.

3 E. Public members of the homelessness reduction
4 advisory council may receive per diem and mileage pursuant to
5 the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

6 F. The authority shall provide the necessary staff
7 and administrative support to the homelessness reduction
8 advisory council.

9 G. On or before September 1, 2025, and each year
10 thereafter, the homelessness reduction advisory council shall
11 submit its findings and recommendations to the interagency
12 homelessness reduction task force."

13 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION.--One million dollars
14 (\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
15 health care authority for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 to
16 fund the operation of the homelessness reduction division of
17 the health care authority, the interagency homelessness
18 reduction task force and the homelessness reduction advisory
19 council. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at
20 the end of fiscal year 2026 shall revert to the general fund.

21 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
22 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025.