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HOUSE BILL 610

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

W. Ken Martinez

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; PROVIDING FOR CONTINGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF
A HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TRUST FUND; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL
DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TRUST FUND AND
AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF THOSE DISTRIBUTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE
COVERAGE PURPOSES; CREATING A BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Section 1. HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TRUST FUND--INVESTMENT--
DISTRIBUTION.--

A. If a "health care coverage trust fund" is
created in the state treasury as a constitutional amendment by
vote of the people in the 2006 general election, money in the
fund shall not be expended for any purpose, except that an
annual appropriation may be made from the fund in accordance

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1 with Subsection B of this section for health care coverage
2 purposes.

3 B. For fiscal year 2009 and each fiscal year
4 thereafter, an annual appropriation may be made from the health
5 care coverage trust fund, in an amount based on recommendations
6 of the blue ribbon health care coverage task force, for any
7 health care coverage or insurance program for the prevention,
8 diagnosis and treatment of disease, illness or injury; provided
9 that the program meets the criteria of the health care coverage
10 task force. Money in the fund shall not revert.

11 Section 2. BLUE RIBBON HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TASK FORCE
12 CREATED.--

13 A. The "blue ribbon health care coverage task
14 force" is created. The task force shall function from the date
15 of its appointment until the first day of December prior to the
16 second session of the forty-eighth legislature.

17 B. The blue ribbon health care coverage task force
18 shall consist of nine members. The governor shall appoint
19 three public members. The New Mexico legislative council shall
20 appoint three members from the house of representatives and
21 three members from the senate and shall designate the chair and
22 vice chair of the task force. Members shall be appointed from
23 each house so as to give the two major political parties in
24 each house the same proportionate representation on the task
25 force as prevails in each house. No action shall be taken by

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1 the task force if a majority of the total membership from
2 either house on the task force rejects the action.

3 C. After its appointment, the blue ribbon health
4 care coverage task force shall hold one organizational meeting
5 to develop a work plan and budget for the ensuing interim. The
6 work plan and budget shall be submitted to the New Mexico
7 legislative council for approval. Upon approval of the work
8 plan and budget, the task force shall:

9 (1) examine the public and private financing
10 of health care in the state;

11 (2) inventory, consider and take testimony on
12 the various unmet health care coverage and access needs in the
13 state and determine or devise a method for setting priorities
14 among those unmet needs;

15 (3) study the impact of appropriating
16 distributions from the health care coverage trust fund, as
17 provided by law, and determine whether any changes should be
18 made in the law regarding the funds or the distribution
19 mechanism;

20 (4) develop a formula or guidelines for
21 determining which purposes, programs or activities will be
22 funded annually, using categories generally for household
23 incomes below one hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty
24 level, between one hundred fifty and three hundred percent of
25 the federal poverty level and over three hundred percent of the

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1 federal poverty level; and

2 (5) review any other statutes, constitutional
3 provisions, regulations and court decisions relevant to the use
4 of health care coverage.

5 D. The blue ribbon health care coverage task force
6 shall report its findings and recommendations, including
7 proposed legislation, for the consideration of the second
8 session of the forty-eighth legislature. The report and
9 proposed legislation shall be submitted to the New Mexico
10 legislative council on or before December 15, 2007.

11 E. The staff for the blue ribbon health care
12 coverage task force shall be provided by the legislative
13 council service.

14 Section 3. TRANSFER--CONTINGENCY.--One hundred million
15 dollars (\$100,000,000) is transferred from the general fund to
16 the health care coverage trust fund for distribution pursuant
17 to law; provided that:

18 A. the health care coverage trust fund is
19 established in the constitution of New Mexico pursuant to a
20 constitutional amendment adopted by the people in the 2006
21 general election; and

22 B. no distribution or expenditure of the
23 transferred money shall be made until on or after January 1,
24 2007.

25 Section 4. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public

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peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.