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SENATE BILL 280

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

INTRODUCED BY

Dede Feldman

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH COVERAGE; CREATING THE HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL NEW MEXICANS COMMITTEE; AUTHORIZING AN ANALYSIS OF THE COSTS OF VARIOUS HEALTH COVERAGE MODELS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Section 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL NEW MEXICANS COMMITTEE CREATED--MEMBERSHIP--APPOINTMENT--VACANCIES.--

A. The "health coverage for all New Mexicans committee" is created. The committee shall function from the date of its appointment until the first day of December prior to the second session of the forty-eighth legislature. The health coverage for all New Mexicans committee shall be composed of thirty-nine members.

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1           B. The speaker of the house of representatives  
2 shall appoint six members from the house of representatives.  
3 The president pro tempore of the senate shall appoint six  
4 members from the senate. In no event shall either party have  
5 less than one member from each house on the committee.

6           C. The governor, after public solicitation and  
7 receipt of applications from interested parties and after  
8 consultation with the chair of the legislative health and human  
9 services committee, shall appoint:

10                   (1) three members representing the insurance  
11 industry in the state;

12                   (2) three members representing employers, at  
13 least two of whom represent employers with less than twenty-  
14 five employees;

15                   (3) three members representing nonprofit  
16 organizations, at least two of whom represent nonprofit  
17 organizations with less than twenty-five employees;

18                   (4) three members representing the health care  
19 advocacy community;

20                   (5) three members of the general public with  
21 demonstrated interest in health coverage for all New Mexicans;

22                   (6) one member representing insurance brokers;

23                   (7) three health care practitioners licensed  
24 to practice in the state of New Mexico; and

25                   (8) one member representing labor.

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1           D. The health coverage for all New Mexicans  
2 committee shall also include the following individuals:

3                   (1) the secretary of human services or the  
4 secretary's designee;

5                   (2) the secretary of general services or the  
6 secretary's designee;

7                   (3) the secretary of health or the secretary's  
8 designee;

9                   (4) the executive director of the New Mexico  
10 health policy commission or the executive director's designee;

11                   (5) the superintendent of insurance or the  
12 superintendent's designee;

13                   (6) the executive director or the chair of the  
14 board of directors of the New Mexico health insurance alliance;  
15 and

16                   (7) the executive director or the chair of the  
17 board of the New Mexico medical insurance program.

18           E. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by  
19 appointment in the same manner as the original appointments.

20           F. The governor, the speaker of the house of  
21 representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate  
22 shall jointly name the chair of the health coverage for all New  
23 Mexicans committee.

24           Section 2. TEMPORARY PROVISION--DUTIES--PER DIEM AND  
25 MILEAGE.--

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1           A. After its appointment, the health coverage for  
2 all New Mexicans committee shall hold one organizational  
3 meeting annually no later than April 30, 2006 and April 30,  
4 2007 to develop a work plan and budget for the ensuing interim.

5           B. In developing the work plan, the health coverage  
6 for all New Mexicans committee shall take into consideration  
7 current resources, projected needs and public and private  
8 health care expenditures in the state to contract for an  
9 analysis of various models, including the cost of the current  
10 system and the transitional cost to each different model  
11 analyzed, to achieve health coverage for all New Mexicans. The  
12 analysis shall consider the costs of various models and  
13 appropriate roles for health care consumers and providers;  
14 medicaid and other publicly funded, operated or created health  
15 care programs; and businesses, nonprofit organizations, brokers  
16 and commercial insurers. The analysis shall be conducted by  
17 national experts who have experience in the analysis of the  
18 costs of health coverage models.

19           C. The health coverage for all New Mexicans  
20 committee shall actively and consistently solicit public input.

21           D. The work plan and budget shall be submitted to  
22 the New Mexico legislative council for approval.

23           E. Public members shall be paid per diem and  
24 mileage pursuant to the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

25           F. Legislative members shall be reimbursed per diem

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1 and mileage at the same rates as legislators are paid for  
2 attendance at joint legislature interim committee meetings.

3 G. All meetings of the health coverage for all New  
4 Mexicans committee or its subcommittees shall be open to the  
5 public.

6 Section 3. TEMPORARY PROVISION--SUBCOMMITTEES.--If a  
7 subcommittee is required, the subcommittee shall be created  
8 only by majority vote of all members appointed to the health  
9 coverage for all New Mexicans committee. A subcommittee shall  
10 be composed of at least one member from the senate and one  
11 member from the house of representatives, and at least one  
12 member of the minority party shall be a member of the  
13 subcommittee. All meetings and expenditures of a subcommittee  
14 shall be approved by the full committee in advance of such  
15 meeting or expenditure, and the approval shall be shown in the  
16 minutes of the committee.

17 Section 4. TEMPORARY PROVISION--REPORT.--The health  
18 coverage for all New Mexicans committee shall periodically  
19 report to the governor and the legislative health and human  
20 services committee on its findings and recommendations and  
21 shall make a final report of its findings and recommendations  
22 no later than December 1, 2007 for the consideration of the  
23 legislature and the governor.

24 Section 5. TEMPORARY PROVISION--STAFF.--The staff for the  
25 health coverage for all New Mexicans committee shall be

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1 provided by the legislative council service, the human services  
2 department and the governor's health policy advisor.

3 Section 6. APPROPRIATION.--

4 A. Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) is appropriated  
5 from the general fund to the legislative council service for  
6 expenditure in fiscal years 2006 through 2008 to pay for  
7 reimbursement of the per diem and mileage expenses of the  
8 public members of the health coverage for all New Mexicans  
9 committee.

10 B. Four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000)  
11 is appropriated from the general fund to the legislative  
12 council service for expenditure in fiscal years 2006 through  
13 2008 to pay for the analysis and for technical and legal  
14 assistance to carry out the provisions of this act.

15 C. The health coverage for all New Mexicans  
16 committee shall work in conjunction with the chair of the  
17 legislative health and human services committee, the  
18 legislative council service, the human services department and  
19 the New Mexico health policy commission in determining the  
20 content of the analysis and the technical and legal assistance  
21 required for carrying out the provisions of this act.

22 D. Payments from the appropriation shall be made  
23 upon vouchers signed by the director of the legislative council  
24 service or the director's authorized representative.

25 E. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining

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1 at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general  
2 fund.

3 Section 7. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public  
4 peace, health and safety that this act take effect  
5 immediately.

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