

1 SENATE BILL 668

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Howie C. Morales and Conrad James

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO CHILDREN; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE CHILDREN, YOUTH  
12 AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT ACT TO CHANGE RECOGNITION CRITERIA FOR  
13 LICENSURE PURPOSES OF NATIONAL ACCREDITING BODIES FOR CHILD  
14 CARE CENTERS AND HOME-BASED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

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

17 SECTION 1. Section 9-2A-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1992,  
18 Chapter 57, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

19 "9-2A-8. DEPARTMENT--ADDITIONAL DUTIES.--In addition to  
20 other duties provided by law or assigned to the department by  
21 the governor, the department shall:

22 A. develop priorities for department services and  
23 resources based on state policy and national best-practice  
24 standards and local considerations and priorities;

25 B. strengthen collaboration and coordination in

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1 state and local services for children, youth and families by  
2 integrating critical functions as appropriate, including  
3 service delivery, and contracting for services across divisions  
4 and related agencies;

5 C. develop and maintain a statewide database,  
6 including client tracking of services for children, youth and  
7 families;

8 D. develop standards of service within the  
9 department that focus on prevention, monitoring and outcomes;

10 E. analyze policies of other departments that  
11 affect children, youth and families to encourage common  
12 contracting procedures, common service definitions and a  
13 uniform system of access;

14 F. enact regulations to control disposition and  
15 placement of children under the Children's Code, including  
16 regulations to limit or prohibit the out-of-state placement of  
17 children, including those who have developmental disabilities  
18 or emotional, neurobiological or behavioral disorders, when in-  
19 state alternatives are available;

20 G. develop reimbursement criteria for licensed  
21 child care centers and licensed home providers establishing  
22 that accreditation by a [~~department-approved~~] national  
23 accrediting body that has had its accreditation standards  
24 approved by at least ten other state governments is sufficient  
25 qualification for the child care center or home provider to

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1 receive the highest reimbursement rate paid by the department;

2 H. assume and implement responsibility for  
3 children's mental health and substance abuse services in the  
4 state, coordinating with the human services department and the  
5 department of health;

6 I. assume and implement the lead responsibility  
7 among all departments for domestic violence services;

8 J. implement prevention and early intervention as a  
9 departmental focus;

10 K. conduct biennial assessments of service gaps and  
11 needs and establish outcome measurements to address those  
12 service gaps and needs, including recommendations from the  
13 governor's children's cabinet and the children, youth and  
14 families advisory committee;

15 L. ensure that behavioral health services provided,  
16 including mental health and substance abuse services for  
17 children, adolescents and their families, shall be in  
18 compliance with requirements of Section 9-7-6.4 NMSA 1978;

19 [~~and~~]

20 M. fingerprint and conduct nationwide criminal  
21 history record searches on all department employees, staff  
22 members and volunteers whose jobs involve direct contact with  
23 department clients, including prospective employees and  
24 employees who are promoted, transferred or hired into new  
25 positions, and the superiors of all department employees, staff

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1 members and volunteers who have direct unsupervised contact  
2 with department clients;

3 N. allow providers of services for voluntary child  
4 care programs to use evidence-based practices rooted in  
5 historic or cultural pedagogy; and

6 O. recognize early childhood teaching certificates  
7 issued by a recognized accrediting body or by the United States  
8 department of education as the equivalent of a New Mexico child  
9 development certificate accepted by the department."