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SENATE BILL 60

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Nancy Rodriguez

AN ACT

RELATING TO EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION; CREATING THE OFFICE OF  
PEACEBUILDING; CREATING THE CITIZENS PEACEBUILDING ADVISORY  
COUNCIL; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

**SECTION 1.** [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be  
cited as the "Office of Peacebuilding Act".

**SECTION 2.** [NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE.--The purpose of the  
Office of Peacebuilding Act is to establish an office dedicated  
to building a culture of peace that, among other functions:  
provides training to facilitate conflict prevention and  
nonviolent conflict management and resolution; studies  
conditions conducive to developing a culture of peace; and  
implements at all educational levels appropriate curricula for  
promoting a culture of peace.

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1           SECTION 3.   [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the  
2 Office of Peacebuilding Act:

3           A.   "council" means the citizens peacebuilding  
4 advisory council;

5           B.   "dialogue process" means a facilitated process  
6 in which people talk and listen to each other in turn to allow  
7 an exchange of diverse ideas, information, opinions and  
8 experiences to foster greater understanding among people;

9           C.   "director" means the director of the office of  
10 peacebuilding;

11          D.   "office" means the office of peacebuilding; and

12          E.   "restorative justice" means a facilitated  
13 process that allows everyone involved in a conflict to be  
14 heard, to acknowledge responsibility for harm caused, to seek  
15 ways to repair the harm and to restore relationships and  
16 community.

17           SECTION 4.   [NEW MATERIAL] OFFICE ESTABLISHED.--The  
18 "office of peacebuilding" is created. The office is attached  
19 to the department of finance and administration for  
20 administrative purposes only, in accordance with Section 9-1-7  
21 NMSA 1978.

22           SECTION 5.   [NEW MATERIAL] DIRECTOR--APPOINTMENT.--

23           A.   The administrative head of the office is the  
24 "director of the office of peacebuilding", whom the governor  
25 shall appoint with the consent of the senate.

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1           B. The director shall be an administrator who has  
2 shown successful administrative experience and has at least  
3 eighty hours of training in alternative dispute resolution,  
4 mediation, dialogue or restorative justice and at least two  
5 years of experience in applying those skills in a community  
6 setting or have equivalent life experience.

7           C. The director shall serve and have all the powers  
8 and duties of the office during the time before final action by  
9 the senate confirming or rejecting the appointment.

10           SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] DIRECTOR--POWERS--DUTIES.--

11           A. The director may:

12                   (1) make peace education grants for the  
13 creation and expansion of peace studies programs and practice  
14 at all educational levels;

15                   (2) make grants to nonviolent communication  
16 and nonviolent conflict resolution programs and local  
17 nongovernmental peace-building initiatives;

18                   (3) employ professional and clerical  
19 assistants, contractors and general counsel as necessary,  
20 oversee staff performance and set priorities according to time  
21 and budget constraints; and

22                   (4) accept grants and gifts on behalf of the  
23 office.

24           B. The director shall:

25                   (1) be responsible to the governor for the

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1 office's operation;

2 (2) manage the office's operation;

3 (3) apply the office's resources and skills

4 statewide to:

5 (a) conflict prevention, management and  
6 resolution;

7 (b) publicly educate on peace and  
8 nonviolence;

9 (c) study and promote social,  
10 environmental and sustainable economic conditions that create a  
11 culture of peace; and

12 (d) develop peace education curricula at  
13 all levels of instruction, including curricula for use by  
14 educators in classrooms and in restorative justice programs;

15 (4) help integrate the peace education  
16 curricula into the training programs for new and experienced  
17 teachers and recommend peace studies courses as part of teacher  
18 education in New Mexico;

19 (5) in coordination with governmental and  
20 nongovernmental organizations, analyze and expand existing  
21 peace-building policies and programs and develop new approaches  
22 to and encourage innovation in peace-building efforts,  
23 including the efforts of alternative dispute resolution  
24 centers, statewide peace studies programs, statewide peace and  
25 justice centers, public school peer mediation, dialogue and

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1 restorative justice programs and juvenile court programs; and  
2 (6) gather information on effective community  
3 peace-building activities and disseminate the information by:  
4 (a) sponsoring and organizing  
5 conferences;  
6 (b) creating awareness of the office's  
7 activities;  
8 (c) facilitating a forum for discussing  
9 peace issues and studies; and  
10 (d) exploring the meaning and practice  
11 of peace and nonviolence in the lives of New Mexicans.

12 SECTION 7. [NEW MATERIAL] COUNCIL--CREATION--MEMBERS--  
13 RESPONSIBILITIES.--

14 A. The "citizens peacebuilding advisory council" is  
15 created and is composed of the director and appointed members  
16 who reflect a concern for environmental integrity, the creative  
17 imagination of the arts and New Mexicans' cultural, gender,  
18 economic, geographic and political diversity. Members are  
19 appointed as follows:

20 (1) two representatives from established state  
21 or local peace advocacy organizations, appointed by the  
22 director;

23 (2) one representative from the New Mexico  
24 faith community, appointed by the director;

25 (3) one representative from a local, county or

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1 state law enforcement agency who has specialized in violence  
2 prevention, appointed by the secretary of public safety;

3 (4) one health professional with expertise in  
4 behavioral and public health issues, appointed by the secretary  
5 of health;

6 (5) one representative from the New Mexico  
7 mediation association, appointed by that organization's body;

8 (6) one veteran who has served in an armed  
9 conflict, appointed by the secretary of veterans' services;

10 (7) one public school educator with knowledge  
11 of peace curriculum development, appointed by the secretary of  
12 public education;

13 (8) one representative of the university of  
14 New Mexico's peace studies program, appointed by that program's  
15 body;

16 (9) one youth representative, between the ages  
17 of fifteen and twenty-four years, appointed by the lieutenant  
18 governor; and

19 (10) one member appointed by the secretary of  
20 Indian affairs.

21 B. The term of service of an appointed council  
22 member is four years; however, the initial terms shall be  
23 staggered so that six members selected by random drawing serve  
24 for two years and five members serve a full term. A member of  
25 the council shall serve two terms at most. If a vacancy on the

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1 council arises, the original appointing authority shall appoint  
2 a replacement member to serve the remainder of the term.

3 C. The council shall select a chair, a vice chair  
4 and other officers as it deems necessary.

5 D. The council shall meet at least twice annually  
6 and may meet more frequently upon the call of the chair. The  
7 council shall:

8 (1) use the dialogue process in its  
9 interactions with each other and the staff;

10 (2) provide assistance and make  
11 recommendations to the director and the governor on peace-  
12 related policies and practices;

13 (3) annually, assess peace-related activities  
14 in the state and submit a report to the director and the  
15 governor reviewing the effects of state peace activities on  
16 governmental entities and communities; and

17 (4) publicize its meetings and allot time to  
18 receive and report public input at regular council meetings,  
19 thereby maintaining a grassroots connection with New Mexicans.

20 E. As compensation for their service, council  
21 members may receive only per diem and mileage in accordance  
22 with the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

23 F. The office shall provide for its own space and  
24 for the space and administrative needs of the council.

25 SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars

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1 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the office  
2 of peacebuilding for expenditure in fiscal year 2017 and  
3 subsequent fiscal years to carry out the purposes of the Office  
4 of Peacebuilding Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance  
5 remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the  
6 general fund.

7 SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
8 provisions of this act is July 1, 2016.

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