

1 HOUSE BILL 643

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez and Harry Garcia and  
5 William B. Pratt and Debra M. Sariñana and Deborah A. Armstrong  
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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO VETERANS' AFFAIRS; TRANSFERRING OVERSIGHT OF THE  
12 NEW MEXICO STATE VETERANS' HOME FROM THE VETERANS' SERVICES  
13 DEPARTMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.  
14

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

16 SECTION 1. Section 9-22-12.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2017,  
17 Chapter 84, Section 7) is amended to read:

18 "9-22-12.1. HEALTH CARE COORDINATION DIVISION.--The  
19 health care coordination division shall:

20 A. develop and coordinate veterans programs and  
21 outreach, including transitional living, housing and health  
22 care programs; and

23 ~~[B. provide oversight of the New Mexico state~~  
24 ~~veterans' home; and~~

25 ~~G.]~~ B. advise and coordinate with the secretary

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1 regarding all health care-related issues for veterans and  
2 veterans' families."

3 SECTION 2. Section 23-1-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,  
4 Chapter 253, Section 42, as amended) is amended to read:

5 "23-1-12. TRANSFER OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS.--

6 A. All property, appropriations and cash balances  
7 now held in the name of the following institutional facilities,  
8 or by any state agency for the indicated facilities, the use of  
9 which is not limited by the terms of any trust or  
10 constitutional provision, and staff employed by the following  
11 institutional facilities, are transferred to the department of  
12 health:

- 13 (1) New Mexico behavioral health institute at  
14 Las Vegas;
- 15 (2) Los Lunas medical center;
- 16 (3) Fort Bayard medical center veterans' unit;
- 17 (4) Villa Solano;
- 18 (5) Fort Stanton hospital;
- 19 (6) Turquoise lodge; ~~and~~
- 20 (7) Pecos lodge; and
- 21 (8) New Mexico state veterans' home.

22 B. The secretary of health may delegate the  
23 authority for the supervision and operation of any of the  
24 institutional facilities transferred under Subsection A of this  
25 section to any of the organizational units within the

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1 department of health."

2 SECTION 3. Section 23-4-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1974  
3 (S.S.), Chapter 2, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

4 "23-4-1. VETERANS' HOME CREATED--ADVISORY BOARD.--

5 A. The "New Mexico state veterans' home" located  
6 near Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, is declared to be a  
7 state home for veterans of service in the armed forces of the  
8 United States and their qualifying spouses, surviving spouses  
9 and gold star parents.

10 B. The "Fort Bayard medical center veterans' unit",  
11 a separate and distinct unit of the Fort Bayard medical center,  
12 located near Silver City, New Mexico, is declared to be a state  
13 home for veterans of service in the armed forces of the United  
14 States.

15 C. There is created the "New Mexico veterans' home  
16 advisory board". The advisory board shall consist of nine  
17 members as follows:

18 (1) the secretary of health or the secretary's  
19 designee;

20 (2) the director of the health care  
21 coordination division of the veterans' services department;

22 (3) the secretary of aging and long-term  
23 services or the secretary's designee;

24 (4) the administrator of a private nursing  
25 home;

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1 (5) a registered health care professional who  
2 is employed by a public or private nursing home;

3 (6) the state commander of the department of  
4 New Mexico veterans of foreign wars or the department  
5 commander's designee;

6 (7) the department commander of the American  
7 legion or the department commander's designee;

8 (8) the state commander of disabled American  
9 veterans or the state commander's designee; and

10 (9) a member of any other congressionally  
11 recognized veteran service organization.

12 D. The governor shall appoint the members  
13 designated in Paragraphs (4), (5) and (9) of Subsection C of  
14 this section, and their terms shall be for three years each.

15 E. The New Mexico state veterans' home shall be  
16 under the control and oversight of the [~~veterans' services~~]  
17 department of health.

18 F. The New Mexico veterans' home advisory board  
19 shall provide advice to the secretaries of veterans' services  
20 and health and the administrators of the New Mexico state  
21 veterans' home and the Fort Bayard medical center regarding  
22 veterans' services."

23 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
24 provisions of this act is July 1, 2019.