

HOUSE BILL 171

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION; CREATING THE OFFICE OF
PEACEBUILDING; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; CREATING THE
CITIZENS' PEACEBUILDING ADVISORY COUNCIL; 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] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the
Office of Peacebuilding Act:

A. "council" means the citizens' peacebuilding
advisory council;

B. "dialogue process" means a facilitated process
of people taking turns talking and listening to each other to
allow an exchange of diverse ideas, information, opinions and

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1 experiences to foster greater understanding between people;

2 C. "director" means the director of the office;

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

4 E. "restorative justice" means a facilitated
5 process allowing everyone involved in a conflict to be heard,
6 to acknowledge responsibility for harm caused, to seek ways to
7 repair the harm and to restore relationships and community.

8 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] OFFICE ESTABLISHED.--The
9 "office of peacebuilding" is created. The office is
10 administratively attached to the department of finance and
11 administration. For purposes of this section, the term
12 "administratively attached" has the meaning specified in
13 Section 9-1-7 NMSA 1978.

14 SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] DIRECTOR--APPOINTMENT.--

15 A. The administrative head of the office is the
16 "director of the office of peacebuilding", who shall be
17 appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate.

18 B. The director shall be an administrator who has
19 shown successful administrative experience and has no fewer
20 than eighty hours of training in alternative dispute
21 resolution, mediation, dialogue or restorative justice and at
22 least two years of experience in applying these skills in a
23 community setting or equivalent life experience.

24 C. The director shall serve and have all the
25 duties, responsibilities and authority of the office during the

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1 time prior to final action by the senate confirming or
2 rejecting the appointment.

3 SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] DIRECTOR--POWERS AND DUTIES.--

4 A. The director shall:

5 (1) be responsible to the governor for the
6 operation of the office;

7 (2) manage the operation of the office;

8 (3) apply the resources and skills of the
9 office statewide to:

10 (a) the prevention, management and
11 resolution of conflict;

12 (b) public education on peace and
13 nonviolence;

14 (c) the study and promotion of social,
15 environmental and sustainable economic conditions that create a
16 culture of peace; and

17 (d) the development of a peace education
18 curriculum, including use in classrooms and restorative justice
19 programs, with educators and schools at all levels;

20 (4) assist in the analysis and growth of
21 existing policies and programs and develop new approaches and
22 encourage innovation, in collaboration and coordination with
23 established institutional and agency efforts and
24 nongovernmental organizations, including alternative dispute
25 resolution centers, statewide peace studies programs, statewide

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1 peace and justice centers, public school peer mediation,
2 dialogue and restorative justice programs and juvenile court
3 programs;

4 (5) help integrate the peace education
5 curriculum into the training programs for new and experienced
6 teachers and recommend peace studies courses as part of teacher
7 education in New Mexico; and

8 (6) gather information on effective community
9 peacebuilding activities and disseminate the information by:

10 (a) sponsoring and organizing
11 conferences;

12 (b) creating awareness of the activities
13 of the office;

14 (c) facilitating a forum for discussing
15 peace issues and studies; and

16 (d) exploring the meaning and practice
17 of peace and nonviolence in the lives of New Mexicans.

18 B. The director may:

19 (1) provide peace education grants for the
20 creation and expansion of peace studies programs and practice
21 at all educational levels;

22 (2) provide grants to nonviolent communication
23 and nonviolent conflict resolution programs and local
24 nongovernmental peacebuilding initiatives;

25 (3) employ professional and clerical

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1 assistance, contractors and general counsel as deemed necessary
2 and oversee staff performance, setting priorities within time
3 and budget constraints; and

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

6 SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] COUNCIL--CREATION--MEMBERS--
7 RESPONSIBILITIES.--

8 A. The "citizens' peacebuilding advisory council"
9 is created and is composed of the director and eleven appointed
10 members as follows, who reflect a concern for the integrity of
11 the environment, the creative imagination of the arts and the
12 multicultural, gender, economic, geographic and political
13 diversity of the people of New Mexico:

14 (1) two representatives from established state
15 or local peace advocacy organizations, appointed by the
16 director;

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

19 (3) one representative from a local, county or
20 state law enforcement agency who has specialized in violence
21 prevention, appointed by the secretary of public safety;

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

25 (5) one professional mediator, appointed by

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1 the director;

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

4 (7) one public school educator with knowledge
5 of peace curriculum development, appointed by the secretary of
6 public education;

7 (8) one representative of the university of
8 New Mexico's peace studies program, appointed by the governor;

9 (9) one youth representative, between the ages
10 of fifteen and twenty-four years, appointed by the governor;
11 and

12 (10) one member appointed by the secretary of
13 Indian affairs.

14 B. The term of service of appointed council members
15 shall be four years. The initial terms shall be staggered so
16 that the terms of six members shall expire at the end of the
17 initial two years, and the terms of five members shall expire
18 at the end of the initial four years. The initial terms shall
19 be selected by random drawing. A member of the council shall
20 not serve more than two full terms. In the event of a vacancy
21 on the council, a new member shall be appointed by the original
22 appointing authority for the unexpired term.

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

25 D. The council shall meet no less than twice

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1 annually and may meet more frequently upon the call of the
2 chair. The council shall:

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

5 (2) provide assistance and make
6 recommendations to the director and the governor concerning
7 peace-related policies and practices;

8 (3) annually, assess peace-related activities
9 in the state and submit a report to the director and the
10 governor reviewing the impact of state peace activities on
11 governmental entities and communities; and

12 (4) publicize and allot time to receive and
13 report public input at regular council meetings, thus
14 maintaining a grassroots connection with the residents of New
15 Mexico.

16 E. Council members shall receive per diem and
17 mileage as provided for nonsalaried public officers in the Per
18 Diem and Mileage Act and shall receive no other compensation,
19 perquisite or allowance.

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

22 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars
23 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the office
24 of peacebuilding for expenditure in fiscal year 2024 and
25 subsequent fiscal years to carry out the purposes of the Office

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1 of Peacebuilding Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
2 remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the
3 general fund.

4 SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
5 provisions of this act is July 1, 2023.

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