

HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 539

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

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE;
REQUIRING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE TO CONTRACT WITH AN
IN-STATE PUBLIC POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION SCHOOL
OF SOCIAL WORK OR RESEARCH-BASED ORGANIZATION WITH EXPERTISE IN
WORKFORCE TO PRODUCE CHILD WELFARE CASELOAD STANDARDS, ANALYSIS
AND MANAGEMENT FOR ONE YEAR; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE
CONTRACT FOR CASELOAD ANALYSIS--REPORT--CONTENTS.--

A. The legislative council service shall contract
for one year with an in-state public post-secondary educational
institution with a school of social work or a research-based
organization with expertise in workforce to conduct a child
welfare caseload analysis for child abuse and neglect

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1 investigators, in-home family services, foster care, kinship
2 care, permanency planning, adoptions and home studies.

3 B. The in-state public post-secondary educational
4 institution or the research-based organization with expertise
5 in workforce that receives the contract with the legislative
6 council service shall convene and oversee focus groups composed
7 of clients of the child welfare system, foster parents,
8 academic faculty with child welfare expertise and children,
9 youth and families department direct line workers and
10 supervisors. The focus groups shall encompass the diverse and
11 inclusive representation of the state, including rural and
12 urban settings.

13 C. The in-state public post-secondary educational
14 institution or the research-based organization with expertise
15 in workforce shall develop a New Mexico child welfare model for
16 child welfare caseload reduction, standard of care and caseload
17 management.

18 D. The legislative council service shall submit the
19 standard of care and caseload standards to the children, youth
20 and families department within twelve months of the date the
21 executed contract begins. The children, youth and families
22 department shall implement the standard of care and caseload
23 standards within one year of receiving them from the
24 legislative council service.

25 E. Beginning on the date referenced in Subsection D

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1 of this section, the legislative council service shall provide
2 a report to the legislative finance committee, the governor and
3 the legislative health and human services committee.

4 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.**--Two hundred fifty thousand
5 dollars (\$250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
6 legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal years
7 2024 and 2025 to contract with an in-state public post-
8 secondary educational institution or a research-based
9 organization with expertise in workforce to conduct a one-year
10 analysis on standard of care and caseload standards for the
11 children, youth and families department. Any unexpended or
12 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2025
13 shall revert to the general fund.

14 **SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The effective date of the
15 provisions of this act is July 1, 2023.

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