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HOUSE BILL 38

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Pamelya Herndon

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION; CREATING A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING AN AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

**SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT STUDY TASK FORCE--MEMBERSHIP--DUTIES.--**

A. The "African American affairs department study
task force" is created and shall function from the date of its
appointment until December 1, 2024.

B. The task force shall consist of the following
eleven members:

- (1) the director of the office on African
American affairs or the director's designee;
- (2) the chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr.

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1 commission or the chair's designee;

2 (3) the executive director of the African
3 American performing arts center or the executive director's
4 designee;

5 (4) the general manager of expo New Mexico;

6 (5) the speaker of the house of
7 representatives or the speaker's designee;

8 (6) the president pro tempore of the senate or
9 the president pro tempore's designee; and

10 (7) five members appointed by the governor who
11 are representatives of charitable or community organizations
12 working on behalf of African American communities in New Mexico
13 or persons who have knowledge of and interest in issues
14 affecting African American communities in New Mexico.

15 C. The governor shall appoint the chair of the task
16 force.

17 D. Members of the task force who are not state
18 employees or otherwise reimbursed for per diem and mileage
19 expenses are entitled to receive per diem and mileage
20 reimbursement as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act and
21 shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or allowance.

22 E. The health care authority department in
23 collaboration with the office on African American affairs shall
24 convene the task force and provide the task force with staff.

25 F. The task force shall study the feasibility of

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1 creating an African American affairs department by evaluating:

2 (1) the possible organizational structure,
3 staffing needs and costs of an African American affairs
4 department;

5 (2) the fiscal and administrative benefits of
6 unifying the resources and operations of the office on African
7 American affairs, the Martin Luther King, Jr. commission and
8 the African American performing arts center;

9 (3) the potential benefits to New Mexico and
10 African American communities in New Mexico provided by an
11 African American affairs department; and

12 (4) other areas of concern deemed relevant by
13 the task force.

14 G. The task force shall submit a final report
15 detailing its findings and recommendations to the governor and
16 the legislature by December 1, 2024.

17 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred thousand dollars
18 (\$100,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the health
19 care authority department for expenditure in fiscal years 2024
20 and 2025 to support the African American affairs department
21 study task force. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
22 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2025 shall revert to the
23 general fund.