

1 SENATE BILL 252

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pete Campos

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO HEALTH; AMENDING THE COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH  
12 COUNCILS ACT; CHANGING THE NAME OF THE COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH  
13 COUNCILS ACT TO THE REGIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL AND ACCESS ACT;  
14 PROVIDING FOR REGIONAL HEALTH COUNCILS; ESTABLISHING DUTIES OF  
15 REGIONAL HEALTH COUNCILS.

16  
17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

18 SECTION 1. Section 24-1J-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
19 Chapter 57, Section 1) is amended to read:

20 "24-1J-1. SHORT TITLE.--~~[This act]~~ Chapter 24, Article 1J  
21 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "~~[County and Tribal Health~~  
22 ~~Councils]~~ Regional Health Council and Access Act"."

23 SECTION 2. Section 24-1J-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
24 Chapter 57, Section 2) is amended to read:

25 "24-1J-2. PURPOSE OF ACT.--The purpose of the ~~[County and~~  
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1 ~~Tribal Health Councils]~~ Regional Health Council and Access Act  
2 is to improve the health of New Mexicans by encouraging the  
3 development of comprehensive, community-based health planning  
4 councils to identify and address local health needs and  
5 priorities."

6 SECTION 3. Section 24-1J-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
7 Chapter 57, Section 3) is amended to read:

8 "24-1J-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the [~~County and Tribal~~  
9 ~~Health Councils]~~ Regional Health Council and Access Act:

10 A. "board" means the board of county commissioners  
11 of a county or leadership of a tribe;

12 B. "department" means the department of health;

13 [~~C. "health council" means a county or tribal~~  
14 ~~health council;~~

15 [~~D. "jurisdiction" means a county or a tribe; and]~~

16 C. "regional health council" means one of five  
17 councils established within the Albuquerque metropolitan area  
18 and within the northwest, northeast, southeast and southwest  
19 quadrants of the state with borders defined by the department;  
20 and

21 [~~E.~~] D. "tribe" means an Indian nation, tribe,  
22 pueblo or chapter of the Navajo Nation located within the  
23 boundaries of the state."

24 SECTION 4. Section 24-1J-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
25 Chapter 57, Section 6) is amended to read:

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1 "24-1J-6. DEPARTMENT--POWERS AND DUTIES.--The department  
2 shall:

3 A. in consultation with regional health councils,  
4 develop benchmarks, expectations and mechanisms to ensure the  
5 long-term viability of regional health councils;

6 B. in collaboration with universities, other state  
7 agencies and other public health entities, provide training,  
8 technical assistance and other supports to regional health  
9 councils;

10 C. in collaboration with other entities, develop a  
11 system to evaluate the effectiveness of regional health  
12 councils and the gathering of necessary evaluation data;

13 D. administer funding to support the work of the  
14 regional health councils, including local health council  
15 staffing, training and technical assistance, and monitor and  
16 evaluate contracts for funding; and

17 E. adopt and promulgate rules as necessary to carry  
18 out the purposes of the [~~County and Tribal Health Councils~~]  
19 Regional Health Council and Access Act and to strengthen  
20 community-based health planning and self-determination."

21 SECTION 5. A new section of the Regional Health Council  
22 and Access Act is enacted to read:

23 "[NEW MATERIAL] REGIONAL HEALTH COUNCILS--DESIGNATION.--

24 A. The department shall establish rules governing  
25 the appointment of members to each regional health council and

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1 shall require that each board within a regional health  
2 council's borders appoint one member of the regional health  
3 council.

4 B. Members of a regional health council shall elect  
5 from among themselves a chair for a term designated by the  
6 regional health council.

7 C. Regional health council members shall not be  
8 paid, but they may receive per diem and mileage expenses as  
9 provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act."

10 SECTION 6. A new section of the Regional Health Council  
11 and Access Act is enacted to read:

12 "[NEW MATERIAL] REGIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL DUTIES.--

13 A. A regional health council shall prepare a  
14 regional health plan with recommendations for improving  
15 regional health care access. The plan shall be updated  
16 annually and be reported to the department, the state budget  
17 division of the department of finance and administration, the  
18 legislative finance committee and the governor's office before  
19 September 1 of each year.

20 B. Each regional health plan shall include:

21 (1) an assessment of health care needs within  
22 the regional health council's borders, including:

23 (a) identification of high-need health  
24 care services based on national benchmarks and nationally  
25 recognized best practices for determining service gaps;

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1 (b) wait times to make an appointment to  
2 receive health services deemed high need by the regional health  
3 council; and

4 (c) average driving distances for  
5 residents residing within the regional health council's  
6 borders;

7 (2) evidence-based recommendations to improve  
8 health care access;

9 (3) evidence-based recommendations to increase  
10 the health care workforce for high-need professions and  
11 services;

12 (4) a five-year strategic plan to improve  
13 health outcomes;

14 (5) identification of infrastructure needs;

15 (6) selection of performance measures to  
16 monitor health care access, services and quality;

17 (7) a plan for collecting performance measure  
18 data; and

19 (8) a request for funding the recommendations  
20 included within the regional health plan that takes into  
21 account local and federal funding sources.

22 C. A regional health council shall:

23 (1) collaborate with other entities to develop  
24 programs, networks, partnerships and coalitions as necessary to  
25 improve health;

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1 (2) advise boards within its jurisdiction and  
2 other entities regarding policies that affect health;

3 (3) facilitate communication among local  
4 jurisdictions, state agencies and other entities; and

5 (4) identify additional public and private  
6 resources to improve health in its respective jurisdiction."

7 SECTION 7. REPEAL.--Sections 24-1J-4 and 24-1J-5 NMSA  
8 1978 (being Laws 2019, Chapter 57, Sections 4 and 5) are  
9 repealed.

10 SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
11 provisions of this act is July 1, 2024.