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SENATE BILL

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

INTRODUCED BY  
Jeff Steinborn

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF  
THE SEARCH AND RESCUE ACT TO REQUIRE THE RISK MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO MAINTAIN AN  
INSURANCE POLICY THAT COVERS SEARCH AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 24-15A-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
Chapter 107, Section 1) is amended to read:

"24-15A-1. SHORT TITLE.--~~[This act]~~ Chapter 24, Article  
15A NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Search and Rescue Act"."

SECTION 2. A new section of the Search and Rescue Act is  
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE  
VOLUNTEERS.--

A. The risk management division of the general

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1 services department shall maintain an accident insurance policy  
2 that covers search and rescue volunteers. The benefits of the  
3 policy shall, at a minimum, include:

4 (1) one hundred fifty thousand dollars  
5 (\$150,000) for the accidental death or dismemberment of a  
6 search and rescue volunteer that occurs during an authorized  
7 search and rescue mission or training exercise; and

8 (2) fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for  
9 medical expenses related to injuries that search and rescue  
10 volunteers incur during authorized search and rescue missions  
11 or training exercises.

12 B. For the purposes of this section, "search and  
13 rescue volunteer" means an uncompensated person who is  
14 registered with the state search and rescue control agency as  
15 having volunteered on a search and rescue mission."