

SENATE HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL 305

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILIES; CREATING THE QUALITY FOSTER PARENT  
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE; REQUIRING A FINAL REPORT.

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

**SECTION 1.** TEMPORARY PROVISION--QUALITY FOSTER PARENT  
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE--CREATED--DUTIES--FINAL  
REPORT.--

A. The "quality foster parent recruitment and  
retention task force" is created. The task force shall be  
convened and administered by the children, youth and families  
department. The task force consists of the following sixteen  
members:

(1) one member appointed by the governor;

(2) one member appointed by the speaker of the

house of representatives;

.231648.1

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 (3) one member appointed by the minority floor  
2 leader of the house of representatives;

3 (4) one member appointed by the senate  
4 president pro tempore;

5 (5) one member appointed by the minority floor  
6 leader of the senate;

7 (6) one member appointed by the chief justice  
8 of the supreme court;

9 (7) one member representing the *Kevin S.*  
10 settlement agreement;

11 (8) one member representing service providers,  
12 appointed by the secretary of children, youth and families;

13 (9) one member representing foster families,  
14 appointed by the secretary of children, youth and families;

15 (10) one young person with lived experience  
16 who has aged out of the foster care system, appointed by the  
17 secretary of children, youth and families;

18 (11) one member representing juvenile justice  
19 stakeholders, appointed by the secretary of children, youth and  
20 families;

21 (12) one member who is a tribal member with  
22 lived experience of the effects of the federal Indian Child  
23 Welfare Act of 1978, the Indian Family Protection Act or other  
24 similar provisions of the Children's Code, appointed by the  
25 Indian affairs department;

.231648.1

1 (13) one at-large representative, appointed by  
2 the secretary of children, youth and families;

3 (14) one member who is a relative, a kinship  
4 caregiver or a licensed foster parent, appointed by the aging  
5 and long-term services department;

6 (15) one member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
7 transgender, queer or expansive community, appointed by the  
8 children, youth and families department; and

9 (16) one member from a rural county, appointed  
10 by the children, youth and families department.

11 B. The task force shall be appointed by August 1,  
12 2025 and complete its work by July 1, 2026.

13 C. The task force shall collaborate with an  
14 institution of higher education to perform research that  
15 supports the task force.

16 D. The task force shall conduct a bold experiment  
17 relating to the quality of foster parent recruitment and  
18 retention to fix the broken system and get the children out of  
19 offices.

20 E. The task force shall study proven examples of  
21 successful models that work in other large rural states,  
22 including Utah Senate Bill 163 from 1998.

23 F. The public members of the task force shall  
24 receive per diem and mileage pursuant to the Per Diem and  
25 Mileage Act.

.231648.1

