

1 SENATE BILL 305
2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY
4 Nicole Tobiassen
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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO FAMILIES; CREATING THE QUALITY FOSTER PARENT
12 RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE; REQUIRING A FINAL REPORT;
13 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.
14

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

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

19 A. The "quality foster parent recruitment and
20 retention task force" is created. The task force consists of
21 the following thirteen members:

- 22 (1) one member appointed by the governor;
23 (2) one member appointed by the speaker of the
24 house of representatives;
25 (3) one member appointed by the minority floor

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1 leader of the house of representatives;

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (10) one youth representative, appointed by
15 the secretary of children, youth and families;

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

19 (12) one member who is a tribal member with
20 lived experience of the effects of the federal Indian Child
21 Welfare Act of 1978, the Indian Family Protection Act or other
22 similar provisions of the Children's Code; and

23 (13) one at-large representative, appointed by
24 the secretary of children, youth and families.

25 B. The task force shall be appointed by August 1,

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underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 2025 and complete its work by July 1, 2026.

2 C. The task force shall collaborate with an
3 institution of higher education to perform research that
4 supports the task force.

5 D. The task force shall conduct a bold experiment
6 relating to the quality of foster parent recruitment and
7 retention to fix the broken system and get the children out of
8 offices.

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

12 F. The public members of the task force shall
13 receive per diem and mileage pursuant to the Per Diem and
14 Mileage Act.

15 G. The task force shall submit its final report to
16 the legislative health and human services committee, the
17 legislative finance committee and the governor by July 1, 2026.

18 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred thousand dollars
19 (\$100,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
20 children, youth and families department for expenditure in
21 fiscal year 2026 to carry out the purpose of Section 1 of this
22 act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the
23 end of fiscal year 2026 shall revert to the general fund.