

1 SENATE HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
2 SENATE BILL 305

3 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

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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.

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

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

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

23 (1) one member appointed by the governor;

24 (2) one member appointed by the speaker of the
25 house of representatives;

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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;

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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.

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