

April 21, 2010

Government Restructuring Task Force

Proposed Work Plan Ideas Based on HB 237

The current economic downturn, which is likely to last for some time, has created a situation and an opportunity for the state to examine the structure and operation of state government, rethink priorities and ensure that programs are operated and services are provided in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The main questions to be asked are: What are the essential services the state must deliver? And what is the most effective way to accomplish the state's goals with the funds available? In order to carry out the broad mission articulated in HB 237, which created the Government Restructuring Task Force, this memorandum suggests the following approach:

1. At an initial meeting, review New Mexico's existing government structure and the history of major reorganization efforts as a way to understand the policies underlying the existing structure of state government. *See* HB 237, § 3(D).
2. Based on the initial background, consideration should be given to the "current resources of the state's agencies, programs, services, funding and core policies and the public needs served by them", including the following items listed in Section 3(B) of HB 237:
 - a. recommendations of the Governor's Committee on Government Efficiency;
 - b. consolidation, elimination or reduction of duplicative or overlapping agencies, programs or services; and
 - c. current and projected staffing needs and current and projected revenue estimates for the next three to five fiscal years.

3. From these in-depth studies, the task force should then focus its recommendations for restructuring, including giving due consideration to whatever statutory changes might be required. *See* HB 237, § 3(E).

To accomplish its tasks by the December 2010 deadline established in HB 237, the task force may wish to consider the use of a facilitator to assist the task force in prioritizing the areas to be reviewed.

Additionally, the task force might request other interim committees to assess the programs under the agencies over which they have oversight and provide that assessment or a ranking of the effectiveness and efficiencies of those programs to the task force. The task force might also request an agency-by-agency analysis identifying specific redundancies or duplications and the benefits or consequences of eliminating certain programs and services.

Additional areas of study might include the impacts of capital funding on operational budgets; co-location of agencies to provide better services to citizens while saving money; the streamlining of procurement; the provision of online services to realize concomitant reduction in staff and offices; identifying and reviewing areas of large expenditures; identifying how the state could work with the local governments to better leverage existing dollars; and a review of sources of revenue and tax structure, i.e., alternative revenue sources.