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HOUSE BILL 67

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Deborah A. Armstrong

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; ENACTING THE PRIMARY CARE COUNCIL ACT;
CREATING A PRIMARY CARE COUNCIL; ASSIGNING DUTIES.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Primary Care Council Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Primary Care Council Act:

A. "department" means the human services department;

B. "primary care" means integrated, accessible health care services, provided by clinicians accountable for addressing the majority of a patient's personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients and practicing in the context of family and community; and

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1 C. "secretary" means the secretary of human
2 services.

3 **SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] PRIMARY CARE COUNCIL CREATED--**
4 **DUTIES.--**

5 A. The secretary shall create the "primary care
6 council" to:

7 (1) develop a shared description of primary
8 care practitioners and services;

9 (2) analyze annually the proportion of health
10 care delivery expenditures allocated to primary care statewide;

11 (3) review national and state models of
12 optimal primary care investment with the objectives of
13 increasing access to primary care, improving the quality of
14 primary care services and lowering the cost of primary care
15 delivery statewide;

16 (4) review New Mexico state and county data
17 and information about barriers to accessing primary care
18 services faced by New Mexico residents;

19 (5) recommend policies, regulations and
20 legislation to increase access to primary care, improve the
21 quality of primary care services and lower the cost of primary
22 care delivery while reducing overall health care costs;

23 (6) coordinate efforts with the graduate
24 medical education expansion review board and other primary care
25 workforce development initiatives to devise a plan that

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1 addresses primary care workforce shortages within the state;

2 (7) report annually to the interim legislative
3 health and human services committee and the legislative finance
4 committee on ways that primary care investment could increase
5 access to primary care, improve the quality of primary care
6 services, lower the cost of primary care delivery, address the
7 shortage of primary care providers and reduce overall health
8 care costs; and

9 (8) develop and present to the secretary a
10 five-year plan to determine how primary care investment could
11 increase access to primary care, improve the quality of primary
12 care services, lower the cost of primary care delivery, address
13 the shortage of primary care providers and reduce overall
14 health care costs.

15 B. The primary care council shall include nine
16 voting members and thirteen advisory members, appointed by the
17 secretary, and shall consist of:

- 18 (1) one member from the department;
19 (2) one member from the department of health;
20 (3) one member from the office of
21 superintendent of insurance;
22 (4) one member from a statewide organization
23 representing federally qualified health centers in New Mexico;
24 (5) five members from statewide organizations
25 representing primary care providers or statewide health

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1 professional societies or associations; and

2 (6) thirteen nonvoting members representing
3 health care and other stakeholders, in an advisory capacity.

4 C. The chair of the primary care council shall be
5 elected by the voting members of the council.

6 D. The council shall meet at the call of the chair.

7 E. Members of the council shall not be paid per
8 diem and mileage or other compensation for their services.

9 F. The secretary shall provide staff support for
10 the council in the performance of its duties.

11 G. A simple majority of the voting members of the
12 council constitutes a quorum.

13 H. The council shall hold its first meeting no
14 later than October 1, 2021.