

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

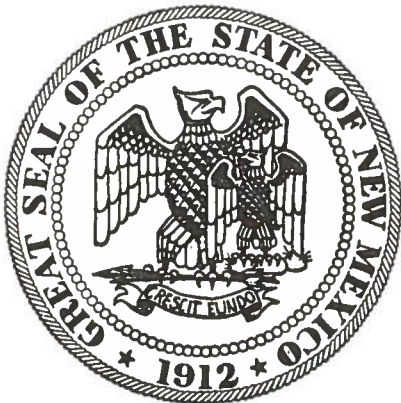
LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE MEMORIAL 18

Introduced by



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM AND THE
3 HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT AN INTEGRATED
4 ENROLLMENT SYSTEM FOR MEDICAID, ANY HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE
5 AND BASIC HEALTH PROGRAM COVERAGE.
6

7 WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable
8 Care Act of 2010 was enacted on March 23, 2010 to launch
9 comprehensive health care reform; and

10 WHEREAS, the overall approach of the federal Patient
11 Protection and Affordable Care Act to expand access to health
12 care requires most United States citizens and legal residents
13 to have health insurance; and

14 WHEREAS, the act expands medicaid to all citizens and
15 qualifying immigrants earning up to one hundred thirty-eight
16 percent of the federal poverty level; and

17 WHEREAS, the act requires states to create health
18 insurance exchanges through which individuals and small
19 businesses can purchase health insurance coverage; and

20 WHEREAS, the act provides that states may opt, through a
21 basic health program, to offer a selection of health plans at
22 prices families can afford as a bridge between medicaid and
23 the private insurance market; and

24 WHEREAS, the New Mexico office of health care reform
25 projects that by January 1, 2020, more than one million New

1 Mexicans, or one-half of the state's population, will have
2 access to health care through medicaid, a health insurance
3 exchange or basic health program coverage; and

4 WHEREAS, under federal health care reform, more than one
5 hundred fifty thousand New Mexican adults will be newly
6 eligible for medicaid; and

7 WHEREAS, more than two hundred fifty thousand individual
8 New Mexicans, as well as many small employers, are projected
9 to be eligible for federal subsidies to purchase health care
10 coverage through an exchange; and

11 WHEREAS, under the Patient Protection and Affordable
12 Care Act, states must develop a streamlined enrollment system
13 by January 1, 2014 that provides a single application for
14 determining eligibility for medicaid, as well as for any
15 health insurance exchange and any basic health program
16 coverage, and that ensures no wrong-door access; and

17 WHEREAS, under the act, states must establish procedures
18 for conducting outreach and enrollment for vulnerable and
19 underserved populations and develop a community-based
20 navigator program for the exchange that assists consumers with
21 applying for all of the health care subsidy programs; and

22 WHEREAS, under the act, the enrollment system and
23 application process for insurance premium credits and cost-
24 sharing subsidies should be easy to use and understand and be
25 accessible to those with disabilities or with limited English-

1 language proficiency; and

2 WHEREAS, the human services department will receive
3 federal matching funds that will pay ninety percent of the
4 costs of developing a new computer system for medicaid that is
5 capable of coordinating application and enrollment functions
6 with other public benefits and health care programs; and

7 WHEREAS, the New Mexico office of health care reform was
8 awarded thirty-four million two hundred thousand dollars
9 (\$34,200,000) in federal grant money to establish an exchange,
10 including funds to develop an enrollment system for the
11 exchange that will provide online applications, telephone
12 support and navigators and that is capable of coordinating
13 enrollment functions with the medicaid program;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
16 office of health care reform and the human services department
17 be requested to plan and develop a streamlined enrollment
18 system for medicaid, any health insurance exchange and basic
19 health program coverage; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the planning and development
21 process include among its goals:

22 A. implementation of an enrollment system that
23 provides a single standardized application for the health
24 subsidy programs;

25 B. enrollment in person, by mail, online, by

1 facsimile or by telephone;

2 C. using an enrollment application form that is
3 easy to use and understand;

4 D. a reduction in paperwork for applicants;

5 E. data exchanges between state and federal
6 agencies wherever possible;

7 F. collection of only information necessary for
8 enrollment;

9 G. access for people with disabilities;

10 H. language interpretation and translation
11 services;

12 I. statewide outreach and a community-based
13 navigator program that reaches underserved communities; and

14 J. prompt determination of program eligibility to
15 minimize gaps in coverage; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico office of
17 health care reform and the human services department cooperate
18 in the collection and analysis of data to assess:

19 A. enrollment and retention rates;

20 B. reasons for denial of enrollment applications;
21 and

22 C. disparities in access to coverage and the
23 utilization of services; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the planning and development
25 process consider:

1 A. whether to adopt the application developed by
2 the United States secretary of health and human services under
3 the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or
4 develop a separate state form;

5 B. data collection standards for information such
6 as race, ethnicity, primary language, location, gender, age
7 and disability status;

8 C. methods to improve retention rates, such as
9 renewing eligibility based on information from a public
10 benefits program;

11 D. the confidentiality of personal information
12 collected and its protection from unauthorized disclosure; and

13 E. acceptance of alternative documentation, such
14 as self-attestation, as proof of eligibility; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that stakeholders, including
16 consumers, small employers, representatives of federally
17 recognized Indian nations, tribes and pueblos located in New
18 Mexico, off-reservation Native Americans and organizations
19 that represent the disabled, women, children, the elderly and
20 low-income families, be given the opportunity to provide
21 meaningful input in the planning and development process; and


22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico office of
23 health care reform and the human services department be
24 requested to make periodic and final reports on the
25 implementation of an integrated enrollment system for

1 medicaid, any health insurance exchange and any basic health
2 program coverage to the interim legislative health and human
3 services committee; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the New Mexico office of health care reform and
6 the human services department.

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BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES