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HOUSE BILL 137

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; ENACTING THE COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS ACT; REPEALING THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PLAN ACT.

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 "County and Tribal Health Councils Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE OF ACT.--The purpose of the County and Tribal Health Councils Act is to improve the health of New Mexicans by encouraging the development of comprehensive, community-based health planning councils to identify and address local health needs and priorities.

SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the County and Tribal Health Councils Act:

A. "board" means the board of county commissioners of a county or leadership of a tribe;

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- 1 B. "department" means the department of health;
- 2 C. "health council" means a county or tribal health
- 3 council;
- 4 D. "jurisdiction" means a county or a tribe; and
- 5 E. "tribe" means an Indian nation, tribe, pueblo or
- 6 chapter located within the boundaries of the state.

7 SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH  
8 COUNCILS--DESIGNATION.--

9 A. Residents of a jurisdiction may create a county  
10 or tribal health council to carry out the provisions of the  
11 County and Tribal Health Councils Act; provided that:

12 (1) a board shall recognize only a single  
13 health council for its jurisdiction; and

14 (2) two or more boards may collaborate to  
15 recognize a common, single health council representing two or  
16 more jurisdictions.

17 B. A board shall recognize only a county or tribal  
18 health council whose members represent a diverse spectrum of  
19 community interests, including individuals and public, private  
20 and nonprofit entities.

21 C. Members of a health council shall elect from  
22 among themselves a chair for a term designated by the health  
23 council.

24 D. Health council members shall not be paid, but  
25 they may receive per diem and mileage expenses as provided in

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1 the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

2 SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] HEALTH COUNCIL FUNCTIONS.--

3 A. A health council shall prepare a community  
4 health plan, updated at regular intervals. A health council  
5 shall report its community health plan to the board and to the  
6 department.

7 B. Each community health plan shall include:

8 (1) a county or tribal health assessment and  
9 inventory of health resources;

10 (2) identification of health priorities  
11 determined through independent, community-based planning  
12 processes; and

13 (3) strategies and resources to address health  
14 priorities.

15 C. A health council shall:

16 (1) monitor health and health care programs  
17 and services in order to identify potential gaps and to reduce  
18 potential duplication;

19 (2) collaborate with other entities to develop  
20 programs, networks, partnerships and coalitions as necessary to  
21 improve health;

22 (3) advise the board in its jurisdiction and  
23 other entities regarding policies that affect health;

24 (4) facilitate communication among local  
25 jurisdictions, state agencies and other entities; and

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1 (5) identify additional public and private  
2 resources to improve health in its respective jurisdiction.

3 SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] DEPARTMENT--POWERS AND  
4 DUTIES.--The department shall:

5 A. in consultation with health councils, develop  
6 benchmarks, expectations and mechanisms to ensure the long-term  
7 viability of health councils;

8 B. in collaboration with universities, other state  
9 agencies and other public health entities, provide training,  
10 technical assistance and other supports to health councils;

11 C. in collaboration with other entities, develop a  
12 system to evaluate the effectiveness of health councils and the  
13 gathering of necessary evaluation data;

14 D. administer funding to support the work of the  
15 health councils, including local health council staffing,  
16 training and technical assistance, and monitor and evaluate  
17 contracts for funding; and

18 E. adopt and promulgate rules as necessary to carry  
19 out the purposes of the County and Tribal Health Councils Act  
20 and to strengthen community-based health planning and self-  
21 determination.

22 SECTION 7. REPEAL.--Sections 24-1B-1 through 24-1B-7 NMSA  
23 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 113, Sections 1 through 7, as  
24 amended) are repealed.