

1 SENATE BILL 294

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gerald Ortiz y Pino

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9  
10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION; CREATING THE OFFICE OF  
12 PEACEBUILDING; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; CREATING THE  
13 CITIZENS PEACEBUILDING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

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

16 SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be  
17 cited as the "Office of Peacebuilding Act".

18 SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE.--The purpose of the  
19 Office of Peacebuilding Act is to establish an office dedicated  
20 to building a culture of peace, including training that will  
21 facilitate the prevention, management and resolution of  
22 conflict without violence and the study and implementation of  
23 appropriate educational curricula at all levels and of  
24 conditions that are conducive to a culture of peace.

25 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the  
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1 Office of Peacebuilding Act:

2 A. "council" means the citizens peacebuilding  
3 advisory council;

4 B. "dialogue process" means a facilitated process  
5 of people taking turns talking and listening to each other to  
6 allow an exchange of diverse ideas, information, opinions and  
7 experiences to foster greater understanding between people;

8 C. "director" means the director of the office;

9 D. "office" means the office of peacebuilding; and

10 E. "restorative justice" means a facilitated  
11 process allowing everyone involved in a conflict to be heard,  
12 to acknowledge responsibility for harm caused, to seek ways to  
13 repair the harm and to restore relationships and community.

14 SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] OFFICE ESTABLISHED.--The  
15 "office of peacebuilding" is created. The office is  
16 administratively attached to the department of finance and  
17 administration. For purposes of this section, the term  
18 "administratively attached" has the meaning specified in  
19 Section 9-1-7 NMSA 1978.

20 SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] DIRECTOR--APPOINTMENT.--

21 A. The administrative head of the office is the  
22 "director of the office of peacebuilding", who shall be  
23 appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate.

24 B. The director shall be an administrator who has  
25 shown successful administrative experience and has no fewer

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1 than eighty hours of training in alternative dispute  
2 resolution, mediation, dialogue or restorative justice and at  
3 least two years of experience in applying these skills in a  
4 community setting or equivalent life experience.

5 C. The director shall serve and have all the  
6 duties, responsibilities and authority of the office during the  
7 time prior to final action by the senate confirming or  
8 rejecting the appointment.

9 SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] DIRECTOR--DUTIES.--

10 A. The director shall:

11 (1) be responsible to the governor for the  
12 operation of the office;

13 (2) manage the operation of the office;

14 (3) apply the resources and skills of the  
15 office statewide to:

16 (a) the prevention, management and  
17 resolution of conflict;

18 (b) public education on peace and  
19 nonviolence;

20 (c) the study and promotion of social,  
21 environmental and sustainable economic conditions that create a  
22 culture of peace; and

23 (d) the development of a peace education  
24 curriculum, including use in classrooms and restorative justice  
25 programs, with educators and schools at all levels;

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1 (4) assist in the analysis and growth of  
2 existing policies and programs and develop new approaches and  
3 encourage innovation, in collaboration and coordination with  
4 established institutional and agency efforts and  
5 nongovernmental organizations, including alternative dispute  
6 resolution centers, statewide peace studies programs, statewide  
7 peace and justice centers, public school peer mediation,  
8 dialogue and restorative justice programs and juvenile court  
9 programs;

10 (5) help integrate the peace education  
11 curriculum into the training programs for new and experienced  
12 teachers and recommend peace studies courses as part of teacher  
13 education in New Mexico; and

14 (6) gather information on effective community  
15 peace-building activities and disseminate the information by:

16 (a) sponsoring and organizing  
17 conferences;

18 (b) creating awareness of the activities  
19 of the office;

20 (c) facilitating a forum for discussing  
21 peace issues and studies; and

22 (d) exploring the meaning and practice  
23 of peace and nonviolence in the lives of New Mexicans.

24 B. The director may:

25 (1) provide peace education grants for the

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1 creation and expansion of peace studies programs and practice  
2 at all educational levels;

3 (2) provide grants to nonviolent communication  
4 and nonviolent conflict resolution programs and local  
5 nongovernmental peacebuilding initiatives;

6 (3) employ professional and clerical  
7 assistance, contractors and general counsel as deemed necessary  
8 and oversee staff performance, setting priorities within time  
9 and budget constraints; and

10 (4) accept grants and gifts on behalf of the  
11 office.

12 SECTION 7. [NEW MATERIAL] COUNCIL--CREATION--MEMBERS--  
13 RESPONSIBILITIES.--

14 A. The "citizens peacebuilding advisory council" is  
15 created and shall be composed of the director and eleven  
16 appointed members as follows, who reflect a concern for the  
17 integrity of the environment, the creative imagination of the  
18 arts and the multicultural, gender, economic, geographic and  
19 political diversity of the people of New Mexico:

20 (1) two representatives from established state  
21 or local peace advocacy organizations, appointed by the  
22 director;

23 (2) one representative from the New Mexico  
24 faith community, appointed by the director;

25 (3) one representative from a local, county or

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1 state law enforcement agency who has specialized in violence  
2 prevention, appointed by the secretary of public safety;

3 (4) one health professional with expertise in  
4 behavioral and public health issues, appointed by the secretary  
5 of health;

6 (5) one representative from the New Mexico  
7 mediation association, appointed by that organization's body;

8 (6) one veteran who has served in an armed  
9 conflict, appointed by the secretary of veterans' services;

10 (7) one public school educator with knowledge  
11 of peace curriculum development, appointed by the secretary of  
12 public education;

13 (8) one representative of the university of  
14 New Mexico's peace studies program, appointed by that program's  
15 body;

16 (9) one youth representative, between the ages  
17 of fifteen and twenty-four years, appointed by the lieutenant  
18 governor; and

19 (10) one member appointed by the secretary of  
20 Indian affairs.

21 B. The term of service of appointed council members  
22 shall be four years. The initial terms shall be staggered so  
23 that the terms of six members shall expire at the end of the  
24 initial two years, and the terms of five members shall expire  
25 at the end of the initial four years. The initial terms shall

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1 be selected by random drawing. A member of the council shall  
2 not serve more than two full terms. In the event of a vacancy  
3 on the council, a new member shall be appointed by the original  
4 appointing authority for the unexpired term.

5 C. The council shall select a chair, a vice chair  
6 and other officers as it deems necessary.

7 D. The council shall meet no less than twice  
8 annually and may meet more frequently upon the call of the  
9 chair. The council shall:

10 (1) use the dialogue process in its  
11 interactions with each other and the staff;

12 (2) provide assistance and make  
13 recommendations to the director and the governor concerning  
14 peace-related policies and practices;

15 (3) annually, assess peace-related activities  
16 in the state and submit a report to the director and the  
17 governor reviewing the impact of state peace activities on  
18 governmental entities and communities; and

19 (4) publicize and allot time to receive and  
20 report public input at regular council meetings, thus  
21 maintaining a grassroots connection with the citizens of New  
22 Mexico.

23 E. Council members shall receive per diem and  
24 mileage as provided for nonsalaried public officers in the Per  
25 Diem and Mileage Act and shall receive no other compensation,

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1       perquisite or allowance.

2                       F. The office shall provide for its own space and  
3 for the space and administrative needs of the council.

4                       **SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION.**--Five hundred thousand dollars  
5 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the office  
6 of peacebuilding for expenditure in fiscal year 2016 and  
7 subsequent fiscal years to carry out the purposes of the Office  
8 of Peacebuilding Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance  
9 remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the  
10 general fund.

11                      **SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The effective date of the  
12 provisions of this act is July 1, 2015.