

SENATE BILL

54TH LEGISLATURE – STATE OF NEW MEXICO – FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH: COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCIL ACT

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE: COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCIL ACT

SECTION 2. PURPOSE OF ACT. The purpose of the County and Tribal Health Council 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. DEFINITIONS.

- A. “board” means the board of county commissioners in a county or leadership of a tribe;
- B. “tribe” means an Indian nation, tribe, pueblo, or chapter located within the boundaries of the state;
- C. “jurisdiction” means a county or tribe;
- D. “department” means the department of health.

SECTION 4. COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS—

DESIGNATION

- A. Health councils shall acquire designation as the single health council for their jurisdiction through a memorandum of agreement or similar document with the board.
- B. Members of the health council shall be selected to represent a broad spectrum of community interests, including individuals and public, private, and non-profit entities.
- C. Members of the health council shall elect from themselves a chair for a term designated by the health council.
- D. Two or more boards may collaborate to establish a common health council to represent two or more jurisdictions.
- E. Health council members shall not be paid, but they may receive per diem and mileage expenses as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

SECTION 5. HEALTH COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

- A. A health council shall prepare a community health plan, updated at regular intervals. Two or more health councils may collaborate to establish a common health council plan for their respective jurisdictions. A health council shall report its health council plan to the board and to the department.
- B. Each community health plan shall include:
 - 1. A county or tribal health assessment and inventory of health resources;
 - 2. Identification of health priorities determined through independent, community-based, planning processes;

3. Strategies and resources to address health priorities, including creating and recommending changes to policies that influence public health.
- C. Health councils shall monitor health and health care programs and services, in order to identify potential gaps and to reduce potential duplication.
 - D. Health councils may collaborate with other entities to develop programs, networks, partnerships, and coalitions as necessary to improve health.
 - E. Health councils may advise the board and other entities regarding policies that affect health.
 - F. Health councils may facilitate communication among local jurisdictions, state agencies, and other entities.
 - G. Health councils may identify additional public and private resources to improve health in their respective jurisdictions.

SECTION 6. DEPARTMENT—POWERS AND DUTIES

- A. The department shall, in consultation with community stakeholders, develop benchmarks, expectations, and mechanisms to ensure the long-term viability of health councils.
- B. The department shall, in collaboration with universities and other public health entities, provide training and technical assistance to health councils.
- C. The department shall, in collaboration with other entities, develop a system to evaluate the effectiveness of health councils, and the gathering of necessary evaluation data.

- D. The department shall administer funding to support the work of the health councils, including local health council staffing, training and technical assistance, and monitoring and evaluating contracts for funding.
- E. The department shall adopt all rules necessary to carry out the purposes of the Health Council Act, to strengthen community-based health planning, and to support self-determination.

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION.—One million one hundred seventy-eight thousand dollars (\$1,178,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the department of health for expenditure in fiscal year 2020 to fund community health plans and other functions performed by county and tribal health councils. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the general fund.

SECTION 8. SECTION 8. REPEAL.--Section 24-1B-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 113, Section 2, as amended) is repealed.