



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Bill Richardson
Governor

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Secretary

Contact Betina Gonzales McCracken 505-827-6245

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Legislation to Revise the Basic Child Support Schedule Gets First Committee Approval

Santa Fe, New Mexico – The House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee today unanimously passed House Bill 412, sponsored by Representative Al Park. HB 412 will, for the first time in 14 years, revise the basic child support schedule, effective July 1, 2008.

The proposed adjustments to the basic child support schedule are based on the combined gross income of both parents. The adjustment for the average middle-income family ranges from approximately a two to five percent increase.

Under federal and state laws, the state's child support guidelines are required to be reviewed every four years. Last year the New Mexico Child Support Guidelines Commission, comprised of District Judges, a child support hearing officer, attorneys, child support enforcement staff and an economist who specializes in child support guidelines reviewed the most recent economic data on child rearing costs, tax rates and a review of child support case data.

The next step for HB 412 is the House Judiciary Committee.

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