



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Jen Paul Schroer, Cabinet Secretary
Sarah Jacobs, Deputy Secretary
Antoinette Vigil, Deputy Secretary

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Senate Bill 241 implements nationwide background checks for Aging Department, moves to governor's desk

SANTA FE – The New Mexico House of Representatives unanimously passed Senate Bill 241, Aging Department Background Checks, with a vote of 63-0. The bill updates the background check requirements for the Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) and is now headed to the governor's desk for her signature.

Senate Bill 241, sponsored by Senator Leo Jaramillo, proposes enacting a new section of the ALTSD act requiring criminal history records checks and procedures for employees, selected applicants or volunteers. This change would strengthen the background check protocols within the department, bringing ALTSD in line with other state agencies who also work with vulnerable populations.

“ALTSD administers many programs with confidential information, such as the recently launched New MexiCare initiative,” said bill sponsor **Senator Leo Jaramillo**. “This change would enable the department to do thorough background checks to best protect our elders and disabled adults.”

This change allows the department to conduct nationwide criminal background checks, which provide a broader picture and enable the agency to make more-informed decisions. This legislation is a proactive measure geared towards optimizing the protection of New Mexicans, as well as a recognition of the sensitive nature of services provided by some of ALTSD staff.

“The safety and well-being of our state’s older adults and adults with disabilities are paramount to this administration,” said ALTSD Cabinet Secretary **Jen Paul Schroer**. “Senate Bill 241 represents a critical step forward in our ongoing efforts to modernize agency standards and reinforce the public’s trust in our commitment to transparency and accountability.”

The New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) was established in 2004 to provide advocacy, support, and resources for seniors and adults with disabilities. The department oversees the state’s Area Agencies on Aging to elevate the quality of care at senior centers, offers advocacy through the Long-Term Care Ombudsman volunteer program, and provides intervention through the agency’s national award-winning Adult Protective Services. Additionally, ALTSD houses the state’s Aging and Disability Resource Center, which offers options counseling, education, and connection to resources. For more information about ALTSD, visit aging.nm.gov or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), and [Instagram @NewMexicoAging](#).

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