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SENATE BILL 693

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Tsosie

AN ACT

**RELATING TO THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION; PROVIDING THAT,
IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COSTS IN
MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION SHALL BE REIMBURSED BY REGULATED
ENTITIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

**Section 1. Section 8-5-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1998,
Chapter 108, Section 22) is amended to read:**

**"8-5-17. ATTORNEY GENERAL--CONSUMER REPRESENTATION
BEFORE COMMISSION. --**

**A. The attorney general shall represent
residential and small business consumers in matters before the
public regulation commission as the attorney general deems
appropriate.**

B. The attorney general:

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1 (1) shall research, study and analyze
2 residential and small business consumer interests;

3 (2) shall prepare and present briefs,
4 arguments, proposed rates or orders and intervene or appear on
5 behalf of residential and small business consumers before the
6 public regulation commission as a party in interest;

7 (3) may accept grants and donations in the
8 name of the state to carry out the provisions of this section;

9 (4) may cooperate with tribal and pueblo
10 governments in New Mexico to ensure that the interests of
11 Indian residential and small business consumers are being
12 represented appropriately before the public regulation
13 commission; and

14 (5) shall report by December 1 of each year
15 to the legislature and the governor on the activities of his
16 office on behalf of residential and small business consumers.

17 C. In any rulemaking, adjudicatory or other
18 hearing before the public regulation commission or a hearing
19 examiner in which a regulated entity is a party, with the
20 approval of the public regulation commission, the attorney
21 general's costs of carrying out the provisions of this section
22 shall be reimbursed by the regulated entity. As used in this
23 subsection, "regulated entity" means a person whose charges
24 for services to the public are regulated by the commission.
25 Money reimbursed pursuant to this section is appropriated to

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1 the attorney general for purposes of carrying out the
2 provisions of this section and shall not revert to the general
3 fund. "

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