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HOUSE BILL 102

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Yvette Herrell

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS; CREATING THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS
TASK FORCE.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS TASK
FORCE.--

A. The "transfer of public lands task force" is
created. The task force shall be composed of the following
members:

(1) four members of the legislature, one
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, one
appointed by the minority floor leader of the house of
representatives, one appointed by the president pro tempore of
the senate and one appointed by the minority floor leader of
the senate;

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1 (2) the commissioner of public lands or the
2 commissioner's designee;

3 (3) the secretary of Indian affairs or the
4 secretary's designee; and

5 (4) three members appointed by the governor.

6 B. The task force shall select a chair and vice
7 chair from among its members at the first meeting.

8 C. The legislative council service and the state
9 land office shall provide staff for the task force.

10 D. The task force shall hold its first meeting on
11 or before July 1, 2014, shall meet regularly and shall report
12 annually to the legislature with an update on the progress that
13 the task force has made concerning facilitating the transfer of
14 public lands to the state. Staff for the task force shall meet
15 before the first meeting of the task force to prepare for that
16 meeting.

17 E. The task force shall report at least one time
18 during the interim to the legislative finance committee and to
19 any interim committee created by the New Mexico legislative
20 council to consider Native American affairs, land grant issues,
21 water and natural resources or economic and rural development.
22 The task force shall promptly agree to any request for a report
23 to any other interim legislative committee that desires an
24 update on its work.

25 F. The task force shall take testimony from

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1 representatives of a wide spectrum of groups, including
2 environmental organizations, farmers, hunting and fishing
3 organizations, ranchers and outdoor sporting organizations,
4 before proposing any legislation.

5 G. During the 2014 and 2015 interims, the task
6 force shall study and determine whether to prepare proposed
7 legislation to be introduced in the second session of the
8 fifty-second legislature in 2016 regarding:

9 (1) the transfer of federal lands to the
10 state;

11 (2) the transfer of state and federal lands to
12 the Indian nations, tribes and pueblos of the state;

13 (3) the transfer of state and federal lands to
14 the state's land grants; and

15 (4) possible land exchanges between the state
16 and the federal government.

17 H. When undertaking its study pursuant to
18 Subsection G of this section, the task force shall consider:

19 (1) opportunities for improved wildlife
20 management;

21 (2) opportunities for transferring title of
22 culturally or spiritually significant lands to the Indian
23 nations, tribes and pueblos of the state;

24 (3) opportunities for transferring title of
25 culturally or spiritually significant lands to the state's land

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1 grants;

2 (4) opportunities to address problems
3 concerning land access; and

4 (5) opportunities for cost savings to the
5 state or to the federal government.

6 I. The secretary of Indian affairs shall consult
7 with representatives of the Indian nations, tribes and pueblos
8 to determine which, if any, federal lands should be excluded
9 from the transfer from federal control and report their views
10 to the task force.

11 J. The task force may study any other issue related
12 to public lands as determined by the task force.

13 SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] LAND GRANTS.--Nothing in this
14 act shall be construed as to prejudice or adversely affect any
15 rights, claims or privileges of New Mexico's historic land
16 grants.

17 SECTION 3. DELAYED REPEAL.--Sections 1 and 2 of this act
18 are repealed effective July 1, 2017.