

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

SB 169 enacts a new Economic Development statute to promote and enhance site readiness for designated strategic economic development sites for immediate economic development.

SB 169 creates in the state treasury the "site readiness fund" which is a non-reverting, special fund. SB 169 makes a twenty-four million dollar (\$24,000,000) appropriation from the general fund to the site readiness fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 and subsequent fiscal years for the implementation of the Strategic Economic Development Site Readiness Act. Money in the fund is appropriated to the Economic Development Department (EDD) for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of the Strategic Economic Development Site Readiness Act, including site characteristic studies of proposed economic development sites and site preparations of strategic economic development sites.

SB 169 authorizes EDD to enter into contracts with public and private partners for site characterization studies of proposed economic development sites to determine the suitability of such sites for certification as a strategic economic development site. A strategic economic development site would be chosen based upon the following characteristics: (1) the availability of public infrastructure, including transportation access, water and wastewater; (2) the availability of public utilities, including electricity, natural gas and broadband access; (3) environmental limitations; (4) size, configuration, topography, soils and drainage; (5) workforce availability; (6) governmental land use restrictions; (7) site ownership; (8) neighboring land uses; and (9) any other site characteristics that may affect the degree to which the site is ready for immediate economic development.

SB 169 creates the "strategic economic development site advisory committee" (Committee) which is composed of: (1) the secretary of energy, minerals and . natural resources or the secretary's designee; (2) the secretary of environment or the secretary's designee; **(3) a representative of the public regulation commission appointed by the commission;** (4) the secretary of transportation or the secretary's designee; (5) the chief executive officer of the New Mexico finance authority or the chief executive officer's designee; (6) the director of the economic development division of the department; and (7) five public members appointed by the New Mexico legislative council who shall have experience in law, architecture, planning, utilities, transportation or economic development. The strategic economic development site advisory committee recommends approval or disapproval of applications for grants or loans from the site readiness fund, the public project revolving fund and other potential funding sources.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB 169 would require a PRC public utility economist to participate in the duties of the Committee (5 hours a week). This would result in a fiscal impact of fifteen thousand one hundred dollars (\$15,100) for FY26 and sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) for FY27.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB 169 requires a Commission designated employee to participate in the duties of the Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB 169 requires a Commission designated employee to participate in the duties of the Committee.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB 19 Trade Ports Development Act, relates to SB169 in that both bills have the same economic development site readiness purpose, use state funds for the development and establishment of economic development sites or trade ports with the State of New Mexico to be ready for new businesses to immediately locate in New Mexico by having pre-built water and electric utility infrastructure, and create a Committee and designate a member of the NMPRC to participate in the approval or disapproval of applications for grants or loans for development of economic development sites or ports.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SB 169 implies that electric and gas utilities are eligible to be part of the public-private partnership, but not expressly.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

None.