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SENATE BILL

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

AN ACT

RELATING TO LAND GRANTS; AMENDING A SECTION OF CHAPTER 49,  
ARTICLE 1 NMSA 1978 TO INCLUDE THE SANTA CRUZ DE LA CANADA LAND  
GRANT-MERCED AS A LAND GRANT GOVERNED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 49,  
ARTICLE 1 NMSA 1978.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 49-1-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1907,  
Chapter 42, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"49-1-2. APPLICATION.--

A. Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978 shall apply to  
all land grants-mercedes within the geographic boundaries of  
lands confirmed by the congress of the United States or by the  
court of private land claims or designated in any report or  
list of land grants prepared by the surveyor general in  
furtherance of meeting the obligations of the Treaty of

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1 Guadalupe Hidalgo and designated in this section but shall not  
2 apply to any land grant that is now managed or controlled  
3 pursuant to another section of Chapter 49 NMSA 1978.

4 B. If a majority of the members of the board of  
5 trustees of a land grant-merced covered by specific legislation  
6 determines that the specific legislation is no longer  
7 beneficial to the land grant-merced, the board has the  
8 authority to petition the legislature to repeal the legislation  
9 and to be governed by its bylaws and as provided in Chapter 49,  
10 Article 1 NMSA 1978.

11 C. The town of Tome land grant-merced, situated in  
12 Valencia county, confirmed by congress in 1858 and patented by  
13 the United States to the town of Tome, shall be governed by the  
14 provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

15 D. The town of Atrisco land grant-merced, situated  
16 in Bernalillo county, confirmed by the court of private land  
17 claims in 1894 and patented by the United States to the town of  
18 Atrisco in 1905, shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter  
19 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978; provided that the board of trustees  
20 shall not have regulatory jurisdiction over, and the provisions  
21 of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978 shall not apply to or  
22 govern, any lands or interests in real property the title to  
23 which is held by any other person, including a public or  
24 private corporation, partnership or limited liability company.

25 E. The Tecolote land grant-merced, also known as

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1 the town of Tecolote, situated in San Miguel county, confirmed  
2 by congress in 1858 and patented by the United States to the  
3 town of Tecolote in 1902, shall be governed by the provisions  
4 of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

5 F. The San Antonio del Rio Colorado land grant-  
6 merced, situated in Taos county, which claim was recommended  
7 for confirmation by surveyor general James K. Proudfit in 1874  
8 and again in 1886 by surveyor general George W. Julian, but not  
9 confirmed by congress, shall be governed by the provisions of  
10 Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

11 G. The Manzano land grant-merced, also known as la  
12 merced del Manzano land grant-merced, situated in Torrance  
13 county, confirmed by congress in 1860 and patented by the  
14 United States to the town of Manzano in 1907, shall be governed  
15 by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

16 H. The Arroyo Hondo Arriba community land grant-  
17 merced, also known as the community of San Antonio and as the  
18 community of Valdez, situated in Taos county, which was  
19 established in 1823 and whose heirs were recognized as the fee  
20 simple owners of the grant's common lands by the eighth  
21 judicial district court of New Mexico in 1914, shall be  
22 governed by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

23 I. The Anton Chico land grant-merced, also known as  
24 the town of Anton Chico land grant, situated in Guadalupe and  
25 San Miguel counties, confirmed by congress in 1860 and patented

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1 by the United States to the town of Anton Chico in 1883, shall  
2 be governed by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA  
3 1978.

4 J. The Abiquiu land grant-merced, also known as the  
5 merced del Pueblo Abiquiu and town of Abiquiu land grant,  
6 situated in Rio Arriba county, confirmed by the court of  
7 private land claims in 1894 and patented by the United States  
8 to the board of grant commissioners of the Abiquiu grant in  
9 1909, shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 49,  
10 Article 1 NMSA 1978.

11 K. The Canon de Carnue land grant-merced, situated  
12 in Bernalillo county, confirmed by the court of private land  
13 claims in 1894 and patented by the United States to the  
14 confirmees of the Canon de Carnue grant in 1903, shall be  
15 governed by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

16 L. The Cebolleta land grant-merced, also known as  
17 the town of Cebolleta land grant, situated in Cibola county,  
18 confirmed by congress in 1869 and patented by the United States  
19 to the town of Cebolleta land grant in 1882, shall be governed  
20 by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

21 M. The Cristobal de la Serna land grant-merced,  
22 situated in Taos county, confirmed by the court of private land  
23 claims in 1892 and patented by the United States to the  
24 Cristobal de la Serna grant in 1903, shall be governed by the  
25 provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

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1           N. The Cubero land grant-merced, also known as the  
2 town of Cubero land grant, situated in Cibola county, confirmed  
3 by the court of private land claims in 1892 and patented by the  
4 United States to the confirmees of the town of Cubero grant in  
5 1900, shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 49,  
6 Article 1 NMSA 1978.

7           O. The Don Fernando de Taos land grant-merced,  
8 situated in Taos county, confirmed by the court of private land  
9 claims in 1897 and patented by the United States to the  
10 confirmees of the Don Fernando de Taos grant in 1907, shall be  
11 governed by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

12           P. The Santo Tomas Apostol del Rio de Las Trampas  
13 land grant-merced, situated in Taos county, also known as the  
14 town of Las Trampas land grant, confirmed by congress in 1860  
15 and patented by the United States to the town of Las Trampas  
16 grant in 1903, shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter  
17 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

18           Q. The Santa Barbara land grant-merced, also known  
19 as la merced de Santa Barbara, situated in Taos county,  
20 confirmed by the court of private land claims in 1894 and  
21 patented by the United States to the heirs of the Santa Barbara  
22 grant in 1905, shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter  
23 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

24           R. The Juan Bautista Baldes land grant-merced, also  
25 known as the merced comunitara de Juan Bautista Baldes,

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1 situated in Rio Arriba county, confirmed by the court of  
2 private land claims in 1898 and patented by the United States  
3 to the heirs of Juan Bautista Baldes in 1913, shall be governed  
4 by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

5 S. The San Joaquin del Rio de Chama land grant-  
6 merced, also known as the merced de San Joaquin del Rio de  
7 Chama and the Canon de Chama land grant-merced, situated in Rio  
8 Arriba and Sandoval counties, confirmed by the court of private  
9 land claims in 1894 and patented by the United States to the  
10 heirs of the Canon de Chama grant in 1905, shall be governed by  
11 the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

12 T. The San Miguel del Bado land grant-merced, also  
13 known as the merced de San Miguel del Bado, situated in San  
14 Miguel county, confirmed by the court of private land claims in  
15 1894 and patented by the United States to the board of the San  
16 Miguel del Bado grant in 1910, shall be governed by the  
17 provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

18 U. The Santo Domingo de Cundiyo land grant-merced,  
19 situated in Santa Fe county, confirmed by the court of private  
20 land claims in 1900 and patented by the United States to the  
21 confirmees of the Santo Domingo de Cundiyo grant in 1903, shall  
22 be governed by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA  
23 1978.

24 V. The Tierra Amarilla land grant-merced, also  
25 known as the merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla, situated

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1 in Rio Arriba county, confirmed by congress in 1860 and  
2 patented by the United States to Francisco Martinez in 1881,  
3 shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1  
4 NMSA 1978.

5 W. The San Antonio de las Huertas land grant-  
6 merced, also known as the merced de San Antonio de las Huertas,  
7 situated in Sandoval county, confirmed by the court of private  
8 land claims in 1897 and patented by the United States to the  
9 San Antonio de las Huertas grant claimants in 1907, shall be  
10 governed by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

11 X. The Tajique land grant-merced, also known as the  
12 town of Tajique land grant, situated in Torrance county,  
13 confirmed by congress in 1860 and patented by the United States  
14 to the confirnees of the town of Tajique land grant in 1912,  
15 shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1  
16 NMSA 1978.

17 Y. The Torreon land grant-merced, also known as the  
18 town of Torreon, situated in Torrance county, confirmed by  
19 congress in 1860 and patented by the United States to the  
20 confirnees of the town of Torreon grant in 1909, shall be  
21 governed by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

22 Z. The Los Vigiles land grant-merced, situated in  
23 San Miguel county, which was partitioned from the town of Las  
24 Vegas grant through a deed of indenture issued by the board of  
25 trustees for the Las Vegas grant and approved by the fourth

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1 judicial district of New Mexico in 1951, shall be governed by  
2 the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

3 AA. The Lower Gallinas land grant-merced, situated  
4 in San Miguel county, which was partitioned from the town of  
5 Las Vegas grant through a deed of indenture issued by the board  
6 of trustees for the Las Vegas grant in 1951 and approved by the  
7 fourth judicial district of New Mexico, the approval of which  
8 was reaffirmed by the court in 1997, shall be governed by the  
9 provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

10 BB. The San Augustin land grant-merced, situated in  
11 San Miguel county, which was partitioned from the town of Las  
12 Vegas grant through a deed of indenture issued by the board of  
13 trustees for the Las Vegas grant and approved by the fourth  
14 judicial district of New Mexico in 1929, shall be governed by  
15 the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978.

16 CC. The merced del Pueblo de Santa Cruz de la  
17 Canada, also known as Santa Cruz de la Canada land grant-  
18 merced, situated in Rio Arriba county, which was confirmed by  
19 the court of private land claims in 1900 and patented by the  
20 United States to the heirs of the land grant-merced in 1910,  
21 shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 49, Article 1  
22 NMSA 1978."

23 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
24 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025.