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SENATE BILL

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; CREATING A RURAL AND TRIBAL
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE AT NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY; REQUIRING
REPORTS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 21, Article 8 NMSA
1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] RURAL AND TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE--
PURPOSES--DUTIES--REPORTS.--

A. The "rural and tribal development institute" is
created within New Mexico state university to:

- (1) identify the baseline economic,
infrastructure and public and private service conditions that
rural and tribal communities need to be sustainable or for
dynamic growth;

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1 (2) survey development methods implemented by
2 rural and tribal communities in jurisdictions outside of New
3 Mexico and analyze their effectiveness and suitability for
4 application by communities within New Mexico;

5 (3) develop state strategies for rural and
6 tribal community development within New Mexico and assist rural
7 and tribal communities in the development of their own
8 strategies;

9 (4) prepare students for future careers and
10 provide training for existing community leaders employed or
11 engaged in rural and tribal development; and

12 (5) act as a resource for community
13 development information and analysis and inter-community
14 facilitation for state agencies and rural and tribal
15 communities within New Mexico.

16 B. On or before November 30, 2024 and on or before
17 November 30 in each subsequent year, the rural and tribal
18 development institute shall provide a report to the governor
19 and the appropriate interim legislative committee that includes
20 the activities of the institute and an index of the vitality of
21 rural and tribal communities in New Mexico as compared to the
22 baseline conditions identified pursuant to Paragraph (1) of
23 Subsection A of this section.

24 C. As used in this section:

25 (1) "rural community" means an incorporated

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1 municipality with a population of thirty thousand or less or an
2 unincorporated area that has been identified as a designated
3 census place or a census tract by the United States census
4 bureau that is not within ten miles of an incorporated
5 municipality with a population of more than thirty thousand
6 according to the most recent federal decennial census; and

7 (2) "tribal community" means a federally or
8 state recognized Indian nation, pueblo or tribe or a political
9 subdivision of a federally or state recognized Indian nation,
10 pueblo or tribe within New Mexico."

11 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Two million eight hundred
12 thousand dollars (\$2,800,000) is appropriated from the general
13 fund to the board of regents of New Mexico state university for
14 expenditure in fiscal years 2024 through 2027 to staff and
15 operate the rural and tribal development institute. Any
16 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
17 fiscal year 2027 shall revert to the general fund.

18 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
19 provisions of this act is July 1, 2023.