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**HOUSE BILL 317**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Miguel P. Garcia**

**AN ACT**

**RELATING TO LAND GRANTS; CREATING A LAND GRANT COMMITTEE;  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

**Section 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--LAND GRANT COMMITTEE--  
CREATION--TERMINATION.--The "land grant committee" is created.  
The committee shall function from the date of its appointment  
until December 1 prior to the first session of the forty-sixth  
legislature.**

**Section 2. TEMPORARY PROVISION--MEMBERSHIP--  
APPOINTMENT--VACANCIES.--The land grant committee shall be  
composed of six members. The New Mexico legislative council  
shall appoint three members from the house of representatives  
and three members from the senate. At the time of making the  
appointments, the New Mexico legislative council shall**

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1 designate the chairman and vice chairman of the committee.  
2 Members shall be appointed to give the two major political  
3 parties in each house the same proportionate representation on  
4 the committee as prevails in each house; provided, however,  
5 that in no event shall either of the parties have less than  
6 one member from each house on the committee. Members may be  
7 removed from the committee by the New Mexico legislative  
8 council at the request of the committee chairman for  
9 nonattendance according to council policy. Vacancies on the  
10 committee, however caused, may be filled by the New Mexico  
11 legislative council, or the council may reduce the size of the  
12 committee by not making replacement appointments and in that  
13 case need not readjust party representation. No action shall  
14 be taken by the committee if a majority of the total  
15 membership from either house on the committee rejects the  
16 action.

17 Section 3. TEMPORARY PROVISION-- DUTIES-- REPORT. --

18 A. After its appointment, the land grant committee  
19 shall hold one organizational meeting to develop a work plan,  
20 budget and schedule of meetings for the ensuing interim. The  
21 work plan and budget shall be submitted to the New Mexico  
22 legislative council for approval.

23 B. Upon approval of the work plan and budget by  
24 the New Mexico legislative council, the land grant committee  
25 shall:

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1 (1) study existing law regarding land grants  
2 and develop legislation to improve existing law;

3 (2) gather testimony from land grant heirs  
4 from across New Mexico to acquire an understanding of the  
5 issues and concerns facing them;

6 (3) gather testimony from other community  
7 groups and state agencies to understand the relationship  
8 between land grant heirs and other property owners in New  
9 Mexico; and

10 (4) work in conjunction with the Guadalupe  
11 Hidalgo task force.

12 C. The committee shall report its findings and  
13 recommendations for the consideration of the first session of  
14 the forty-sixth legislature. The report and suggested  
15 legislation shall be made available to the New Mexico  
16 legislative council on or before December 15 preceding the  
17 session.

18 Section 4. TEMPORARY PROVISION--STAFF.--The staff for  
19 the land grant committee shall be provided by the legislative  
20 council service.

21 Section 5. APPROPRIATION.--Twenty thousand dollars  
22 (\$20,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
23 legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal year  
24 2003 for the purpose of paying the salaries and expenses of  
25 technical, legal and clerical staff; for purchasing equipment

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1 and supplies; and for reimbursing the per diem and mileage  
2 expenses of the land grant committee members pursuant to the  
3 Per Diem and Mileage Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered  
4 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003 shall revert  
5 to the general fund.

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