

AN ACT

RELATING TO LAND GRANTS; ENACTING THE LAND GRANT SUPPORT ACT;
ESTABLISHING A LAND GRANT COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR POWERS AND
DUTIES; CHANGING THE USE OF A PRIOR APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"Land Grant Support Act".

Section 2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Land Grant
Support Act:

- A. "council" means the land grant council; and
- B. "land grant" means a patented community land
grant-merced organized and operating as a political
subdivision of the state.

Section 3. LAND GRANT COUNCIL--PURPOSE.--

A. The "land grant council" is created and is
administratively attached to the department of finance and
administration. The general purposes of the council are to
establish a land grant support program to provide advice and
assistance to land grants and to serve as a liaison between
land grants and the federal, state and local governments.

B. The council shall consist of five members
appointed by the governor from the boards of directors of land
grants for staggered terms of four years, with two members of
the initial council selected by lot to serve an initial term

of two years.

C. The council may hire staff and contract for services to carry out the purposes of the Land Grant Support Act.

D. The council shall appoint a chairperson and may appoint such other officers as it deems necessary.

E. The council shall meet at least quarterly. Meetings of the council shall be called by the chairperson of the council or at the request of at least three members of the council.

F. Members of the council are entitled to receive per diem and mileage in accordance with the provisions of the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

Section 4. LAND GRANT SUPPORT PROGRAM--COUNCIL DIRECTOR POWERS AND DUTIES.--

A. The council, through its staff or contract agents, may apply for and accept any public or private grants, gifts or donations for the benefit of the land grant support program, the council or land grants in general or particular.

B. The council, through its staff or contract agents, may:

(1) assist land grants in all areas of land grant fiscal and programmatic management, including planning, economic development and infrastructure development;

(2) establish cooperative purchasing

capabilities for land grants;

(3) perform special studies and undertake surveys of interest to land grants and report the findings;

(4) serve as fiscal agent and administrator for federal and state grants-in-aid and other funding for a land grant when necessary;

(5) facilitate or enter into agreements with state and federal agencies on behalf of land grants;

(6) enter into contracts to carry out the purposes of the Land Grant Support Act; and

(7) provide other assistance to land grants.

C. The council, through its staff or contract agents, shall:

(1) facilitate the exchange of experience and advice among land grants;

(2) serve as a liaison between land grants and federal, state and local agencies;

(3) promote cooperation between land grants and, by consultation and advice, assist in the coordination of land grant programs;

(4) provide board development opportunities and technical assistance to the governing boards of land grants;

(5) provide short- and long-range planning assistance to land grants;

(6) conduct training sessions for land grants on topics of interest, such as:

(a) local, state and national zoning trends and concerns and other land-use issues;

(b) state requirements for political subdivisions on such topics as open meetings, public records, procurement, risk management, tort claims and financial accountability;

(c) techniques of historical research;

(d) grant writing;

(e) economic development strategies;

and

(f) rangeland management and water conservation;

(7) disseminate information to relevant federal, state and local agencies on land grant issues and activities and, when requested, on the status of individual land grants;

(8) develop and promote federal legislation for an appropriate congressional response to longstanding community land grant claims in New Mexico; and

(9) review state and federal policies, plans and legislation affecting land grants in New Mexico.

Section 5. REPORT TO GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE.--The council shall report to the governor and the legislature by

December 1 of each year on the state of land grants in New Mexico and the activities of the council for that year.

Section 6. CHANGE OF USE OF PRIOR APPROPRIATION.--The unexpended balance of the general fund appropriation to the department of finance and administration in Subsection 8 of Section 50 of Chapter 92 of Laws 2008 for land grant facilities and infrastructure projects related to water, wastewater, communications and roads statewide shall not be expended for the original purpose but is appropriated to the following agencies in the following amounts for expenditure in fiscal years 2009 through 2011 for the following purposes:

A. to the department of finance and administration, fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to provide technical assistance to land grants; and

B. to the land grant council, one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to carry out the duties imposed by and the purposes of the Land Grant Support Act. _____