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HOUSE BILL 101

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Debra M. Sariñana and Marian Matthews and Kristina Ortez and
Matthew McQueen and Phelps Anderson

AN ACT

RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES; ENACTING THE NEW MEXICO
REFORESTATION CENTER ACT; DIRECTING THE FORESTRY DIVISION OF
THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO ENTER
INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AT NEW MEXICO
HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY, THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AT
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO TO CREATE THE NEW MEXICO
REFORESTATION CENTER TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF A CHANGING
CLIMATE ON THE STATE'S FORESTS AND ADDRESS THE STATE'S
REFORESTATION NEEDS; CREATING A BOARD; DIRECTING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEDICATED ACCOUNT FOR FUNDING; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be

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1 cited as the "New Mexico Reforestation Center Act".

2 SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] NEW MEXICO REFORESTATION
3 CENTER--AGREEMENT.--

4 A. The forestry division of the energy, minerals
5 and natural resources department shall enter into an agreement
6 with the department of forestry of New Mexico highlands
7 university, the agricultural experiment station of New Mexico
8 state university and the department of biology of the
9 university of New Mexico to create the "New Mexico
10 reforestation center".

11 B. The New Mexico reforestation center shall
12 address the impacts of a changing climate on the state's
13 forests and meet the state's current and future reforestation
14 needs through establishment of a seed bank program, a nursery
15 program and a planting program and shall develop and operate
16 comprehensive policies and projects for:

- 17 (1) seed collection;
- 18 (2) seed processing;
- 19 (3) seed storage;
- 20 (4) seed orchards;
- 21 (5) seedling production;
- 22 (6) seedling storage;
- 23 (7) seedling distribution;
- 24 (8) planting and monitoring;
- 25 (9) climate modeling and database management;

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1 and

2 (10) research, outreach, education and
3 training to support the seed bank, nursery and planting
4 programs.

5 C. The agreement shall specify the areas of
6 responsibilities for each party to the agreement, and
7 responsibility shall be divided among the parties based on
8 expertise and capabilities; provided that:

9 (1) New Mexico state university shall act as
10 the fiscal agent for the New Mexico reforestation center;

11 (2) a majority of the positions supporting the
12 nursery program and research efforts, including a regeneration
13 scientist, shall be housed in the agricultural experiment
14 station of New Mexico state university;

15 (3) academic, administrative support and
16 seasonal positions shall be housed in the department of
17 forestry of New Mexico highlands university;

18 (4) climate modeling and database management
19 shall be housed in the department of biology of the university
20 of New Mexico; and

21 (5) one full-time-equivalent position for a
22 planting and seed collection coordinator shall be housed in the
23 forestry division of the energy, minerals and natural resources
24 department.

25 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] NEW MEXICO REFORESTATION

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1 BOARD--MEMBERS--DUTIES.--

2 A. The "New Mexico reforestation board" is created.

3 B. The board consists of the following members:

4 (1) the state forester;

5 (2) the director of forestry of New Mexico
6 highlands university or the associate vice president of
7 academic affairs for forestry and the reforestation center of
8 New Mexico highlands university, appointed by the president of
9 New Mexico highlands university;

10 (3) the director of reforestation of New
11 Mexico state university;

12 (4) the director of the New Mexico forest and
13 watershed restoration institute at New Mexico highlands
14 university;

15 (5) a faculty member of the university of New
16 Mexico who is an expert in forest ecology and climate modeling,
17 appointed by the chair of the department of biology of the
18 university of New Mexico;

19 (6) one member at large representing New
20 Mexico state university, appointed by the board of regents of
21 New Mexico state university; and

22 (7) one member at large representing New
23 Mexico highlands university, appointed by the board of regents
24 of New Mexico highlands university.

25 C. A majority of the members of the board

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1 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

2 D. The board shall elect from its membership the
3 chair of the board. Each member of the board shall serve as
4 chair on a rotating basis.

5 E. The powers and duties of the board shall be
6 specified in the agreement entered into pursuant to Section 2
7 of the New Mexico Reforestation Center Act; provided that the
8 board shall have responsibility for:

9 (1) strategic planning for the New Mexico
10 reforestation center; and

11 (2) fiscal decisions and the allocation of
12 funds for the New Mexico reforestation center.

13 SECTION 4. ~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ NEW MEXICO REFORESTATION CENTER
14 ACCOUNT.--By July 1, 2022, the board of regents of New Mexico
15 state university shall establish a "New Mexico reforestation
16 center account" to receive appropriations from the legislature,
17 gifts, grants or donations and revenues and receipts derived
18 from the operations of the New Mexico reforestation center.
19 Money in the New Mexico reforestation center account shall be
20 used for the operations of the New Mexico reforestation center,
21 including salaries, as provided in the agreement entered into
22 pursuant to Section 2 of the New Mexico Reforestation Center
23 Act. Money in the account shall not revert to any other fund
24 or account at the end of a fiscal year.

25 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION.--Four million six hundred eight
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1 thousand one hundred dollars (\$4,608,100) is appropriated from
2 the general fund to the board of regents of New Mexico state
3 university for deposit in the New Mexico reforestation center
4 account and for expenditure in fiscal year 2023 and subsequent
5 fiscal years for the first-year operational expenses of the New
6 Mexico reforestation center as provided in the agreement
7 entered into pursuant to Section 2 of the New Mexico
8 Reforestation Center Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered
9 balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert
10 to the general fund; provided that if the agreement required by
11 Section 2 of the New Mexico Reforestation Center Act is not
12 entered into by July 1, 2023, the amount appropriated in this
13 section shall revert to the general fund.

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