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SENATE BILL 11

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pat Woods and Debra M. Sariñana

FOR THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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 CLIMATE CHANGE  
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  
cited as the "New Mexico Reforestation Center Act".

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1 SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] NEW MEXICO REFORESTATION

2 CENTER--AGREEMENT.--

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

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

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

25 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] NEW MEXICO REFORESTATION  
25 BOARD--MEMBERS--DUTIES.--

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

2           B. The board consists of the following members:

3                   (1) the state forester;

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

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

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

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

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

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

24           C. A majority of the members of the board  
25 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

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

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

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

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

12           **SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] NEW MEXICO REFORESTATION CENTER**  
13 **ACCOUNT.**--By July 1, 2022, the board of regents of New Mexico  
14 highlands university shall establish a "New Mexico  
15 reforestation center account" to receive appropriations from  
16 the legislature, gifts, grants or donations and revenues and  
17 receipts derived from the operations of the New Mexico  
18 reforestation center. Money in the New Mexico reforestation  
19 center account shall be used for the operations of the New  
20 Mexico reforestation center, including salaries, as provided in  
21 the agreement entered into pursuant to Section 2 of the New  
22 Mexico Reforestation Center Act. Money in the account shall  
23 not revert to any other fund or account at the end of a fiscal  
24 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  
3 highlands university for deposit in the New Mexico  
4 reforestation center account and for expenditure in fiscal year  
5 2023 and subsequent fiscal years for the first-year operational  
6 expenses of the New Mexico reforestation center as provided in  
7 the agreement entered into pursuant to Section 2 of the New  
8 Mexico Reforestation Center Act. Any unexpended or  
9 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year  
10 shall not revert to the general fund; provided that if the  
11 agreement required by Section 2 of the New Mexico Reforestation  
12 Center Act is not entered into by July 1, 2023, the amount  
13 appropriated in this section shall revert to the general fund.