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HOUSE BILL 20

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

Meredith A. Dixon and Nathan P. Small and Joy Garratt and  
Cristina Parajón and Doreen Y. Gallegos

AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; CREATING THE TECHNOLOGY AND  
INNOVATION DIVISION WITHIN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT;  
PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; CREATING THE TECHNOLOGY AND  
INNOVATION NETWORK ADVISORY BOARD; ENACTING THE RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT FUND ACT; CREATING THE RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT FUND; PROVIDING FOR MATCH FUNDING  
FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE CERTAIN GOALS; ESTABLISHING  
AN APPLICATION PROCESS, ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND AWARD  
TERMS; REQUIRING REPORTING; CREATING THE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION  
PRIZE AND PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY AND RECEIVING  
PRIZE MONEY; TRANSFERRING OFFICE FUNCTIONS, PERSONNEL, MONEY  
AND PROPERTY TO THE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION DIVISION;  
REPEALING SECTIONS 9-15-16 AND 9-15-17 NMSA 1978 (BEING LAWS  
1991, CHAPTER 21, SECTIONS 21 AND 22) TO REMOVE OBSOLETE  
PROVISIONS; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 9-15-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983, Chapter 297, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

"9-15-4. DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED.--The "economic development department" is created in the executive branch. The department shall be a cabinet department and shall consist of, but not be limited to, seven divisions as follows:

- A. the administrative services division;
- B. the economic development division;
- C. the New Mexico film division;
- D. the technology [~~enterprise~~] and innovation division;
- E. the trade and Mexican affairs division;
- F. the New Mexico outdoor recreation division; and
- G. the creative industries division."

SECTION 2. A new section of the Economic Development Department Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION DIVISION-- DUTIES.--

A. The "technology and innovation division" is created in the department. In addition to any organizational units, programs or funds that the secretary assigns to the technology and innovation division, the division consists of the office of strategy, science and technology.

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1           B. The technology and innovation division, in  
2 addition to other duties that may be assigned to the division  
3 by the secretary or by law, is authorized to:

4                   (1) engage and coordinate with the technology  
5 and innovation network advisory board and the broader business  
6 community;

7                   (2) support and coordinate with the target  
8 sector subcommittees of the technology and innovation network  
9 advisory board;

10                   (3) represent New Mexico at national  
11 conferences and trade shows related to technology and  
12 innovation, focusing on the target sectors;

13                   (4) identify and support applications for  
14 federal grant opportunities in the target sectors;

15                   (5) support and develop ecosystems in New  
16 Mexico in the target sectors;

17                   (6) provide program staff for each target  
18 sector to coordinate and serve as liaisons to target sector  
19 ecosystems in New Mexico;

20                   (7) market and promote New Mexico's target  
21 sectors within and without New Mexico;

22                   (8) administer the Research, Development and  
23 Deployment Fund Act, including:

24                           (a) establishing, maintaining and  
25 administering the application process;

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- 1 (b) reviewing and evaluating grant  
2 proposals;
- 3 (c) monitoring the progress and outcomes  
4 of projects awarded funding;
- 5 (d) ensuring compliance with fund  
6 matching requirements;
- 7 (e) tracking and reporting on the  
8 performance of the research, development and deployment fund;  
9 and
- 10 (f) coordinating and managing the awards  
11 process in consultation with the technology and innovation  
12 network advisory board;
- 13 (9) develop and maintain a statewide  
14 technology and innovation strategic plan that:
- 15 (a) aligns with state economic  
16 development goals;
- 17 (b) identifies key innovation assets and  
18 opportunities;
- 19 (c) establishes metrics for measuring  
20 progress and success; and
- 21 (d) outlines strategies for the  
22 development of target sector ecosystems;
- 23 (10) collect, analyze and report to the  
24 department on innovation metrics, including:
- 25 (a) economic impacts of division

1 programs;

2 (b) state innovation performance

3 indicators;

4 (c) ecosystem development metrics; and

5 (d) returns on investment of state

6 funding;

7 (11) support technology transfer and  
8 commercialization through:

9 (a) facilitating connections between  
10 researchers and industry;

11 (b) providing technical assistance for  
12 technology commercialization;

13 (c) supporting small business innovation  
14 and incubation programs; and

15 (d) coordinating with federal and state  
16 technology transfer programs;

17 (12) coordinate innovation initiatives across  
18 state agencies, including:

19 (a) identifying opportunities for  
20 collaboration;

21 (b) aligning resources and programs;

22 (c) reducing duplication of efforts; and

23 (d) maximizing impact of state

24 investments; and

25 (13) maintain databases and resources,

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1 including:

- 2 (a) state innovation assets and  
3 capabilities;  
4 (b) funding opportunities and resources;  
5 (c) technical assistance providers; and  
6 (d) ecosystem support organizations.

7 C. As used in this section, "target sectors" means  
8 aerospace and space, biosciences, clean energy and water,  
9 advanced computing, which includes artificial intelligence,  
10 quantum computing and cybersecurity, and other sectors that are  
11 strategic and important for statewide economic development."

12 SECTION 3. A new section of the Economic Development  
13 Department Act is enacted to read:

14 "[NEW MATERIAL] TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION NETWORK ADVISORY  
15 BOARD--CREATED--MEMBERS--DUTIES.--

16 A. The "technology and innovation network advisory  
17 board" is created in the technology and innovation division of  
18 the department. The advisory board consists of an executive  
19 committee and four subcommittees: the aerospace and space  
20 subcommittee, the advanced computing subcommittee, the  
21 biosciences subcommittee and the clean energy and water  
22 subcommittee. The advisory board is composed of the following:

- 23 (1) the secretary or the secretary's designee,  
24 to serve as chair;  
25 (2) ten members who may collectively be

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1 referred to as "core members", including the president of the  
2 New Mexico independent community colleges or that president's  
3 designee, the president of the New Mexico chamber of commerce  
4 or that president's designee and one representative from each  
5 of the following:

6 (a) Sandia national laboratories;  
7 (b) Los Alamos national laboratory;  
8 (c) the United States air force research  
9 laboratory;

10 (d) New Mexico state university;  
11 (e) the university of New Mexico;  
12 (f) the university of New Mexico health  
13 sciences center;

14 (g) the New Mexico institute of mining  
15 and technology; and

16 (h) Navajo technical university;  
17 (3) a representative from each center of  
18 excellence established pursuant to Section 21-1-27.11 NMSA  
19 1978;

20 (4) a representative from each authority  
21 created in statute that is administratively attached to a state  
22 agency or political subdivision of the state; and

23 (5) the following public members to be  
24 appointed by the secretary:

25 (a) one representative from a skilled

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1 trades association in New Mexico;

2 (b) one representative from a regional  
3 economic development organization;

4 (c) one representative from an Indian  
5 nation, tribe or pueblo;

6 (d) one representative from the private  
7 equity industry with at least five years of relevant  
8 experience;

9 (e) one representative from the venture  
10 capital industry with at least five years of relevant  
11 experience;

12 (f) one representative from a New Mexico  
13 business incubator or accelerator with at least five years of  
14 relevant experience; and

15 (g) eight representatives who are  
16 industry alliance members or have at least five years of  
17 relevant experience working in entrepreneurial support. Two  
18 representatives shall be from each of the following four target  
19 sectors: aerospace and space, biosciences, clean energy and  
20 water and advanced computing.

21 B. The technology and innovation network advisory  
22 board is created to unite various sector perspectives to assist  
23 in the guidance and ongoing strategic planning of the division.  
24 The advisory board shall:

25 (1) provide to the technology and innovation

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1 division recommendations for strategic engagement, industry  
2 perspective, sectors that the division should make target  
3 sectors and feedback on the division's programs and  
4 initiatives;

5 (2) assist with ensuring active engagement  
6 between the state and the private sector;

7 (3) assist the technology and innovation  
8 division with administering the Research, Development and  
9 Deployment Fund Act, including providing recommendations to  
10 that division for eligibility requirements, funding priorities  
11 and the awarding of project funding; and

12 (4) publish annual performance reports by  
13 December of each year that identify near-term constraints and  
14 challenges, identify opportunities and long-term trends and  
15 provide sector survey metrics and policy recommendations.

16 C. The technology and innovation network advisory  
17 board shall meet, beginning in 2025, not less than quarterly at  
18 the call of the chair or at the request of two-fifths of its  
19 membership to carry out its duties. A majority of the members  
20 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and the  
21 support of a majority of the quorum is required for adoption of  
22 any action.

23 D. Appointments to the technology and innovation  
24 network advisory board shall be made by and the terms of  
25 service of appointed members shall start on September 1, 2025.

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1 The terms shall be four years, and the initial terms shall be  
2 staggered so that the terms of one-half of the members shall  
3 expire at the end of the initial two years and the terms of the  
4 remaining members shall expire at the end of the initial four  
5 years. The initial terms shall be selected by random drawing.

6 E. Each member of the technology and innovation  
7 network advisory board shall serve on at least one  
8 subcommittee. Each member of the advisory board shall,  
9 pursuant to a policy adopted by and on forms required by the  
10 executive committee of the board, disclose conflicts of  
11 interest annually.

12 F. In the event of a vacancy on the technology and  
13 innovation network advisory board, a new member shall be  
14 appointed by the original appointing authority for the  
15 remainder of the unexpired term. A member may be removed by  
16 the secretary or by a two-thirds' vote of the executive  
17 committee members.

18 G. Public members of the technology and innovation  
19 network advisory board are entitled to receive per diem and  
20 mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act and shall  
21 receive no other compensation, perquisite or allowance.

22 H. The staff for the technology and innovation  
23 network advisory board shall be provided by the technology and  
24 innovation division of the department, and the staff shall  
25 provide:

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1 (1) administrative and technical support for  
2 the advisory board;

3 (2) assistance with the coordination and  
4 documentation of board, executive committee and subcommittee  
5 meetings;

6 (3) assistance with reporting requirements and  
7 metric tracking; and

8 (4) support with the administration of  
9 grants."

10 SECTION 4. A new section of the Economic Development  
11 Department Act is enacted to read:

12 "[NEW MATERIAL] TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION NETWORK ADVISORY  
13 BOARD--EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE--SUBCOMMITTEES--COMPOSITION AND  
14 DUTIES.--

15 A. There are created within the technology and  
16 innovation network advisory board an executive committee and  
17 four subcommittees: the aerospace and space subcommittee, the  
18 advanced computing subcommittee, the biosciences subcommittee  
19 and the clean energy and water subcommittee.

20 B. The executive committee is composed of the  
21 following members of the technology and innovation network  
22 advisory board:

23 (1) the chair;

24 (2) two core members;

25 (3) two of the public members appointed by the

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1 secretary; and

2 (4) one representative from each of the  
3 following four target sectors: aerospace and space,  
4 biosciences, clean energy and water and advanced computing.

5 C. The executive committee shall oversee the  
6 technology and innovation network advisory board's operations,  
7 set meeting agendas, review and approve subcommittee  
8 recommendations and make time-sensitive decisions between full  
9 board meetings.

10 D. Each of the four subcommittees is composed of  
11 the two representatives from the corresponding target sector,  
12 one representative from a laboratory, one representative from a  
13 university, one representative from private industry and the  
14 secretary or the secretary's designee to serve as chair. The  
15 subcommittee members shall elect a vice chair. A member of the  
16 public may apply to the executive committee to be a nonvoting  
17 member of a subcommittee, and the executive committee shall  
18 adopt policies and procedures necessary for such an application  
19 and evaluation process.

20 E. Each subcommittee shall develop sector-specific  
21 metrics and goals, review and assess relevant grant proposals,  
22 monitor sector performance and trends, prepare annual reports  
23 and identify cross-sector opportunities.

24 F. The executive committee and each of the four  
25 subcommittees shall meet, beginning September 1, 2025, not less

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1 than quarterly at the call of the chair or at the request of  
2 two-fifths of its membership to carry out its duties. A  
3 majority of the members constitutes a quorum for the  
4 transaction of business, and the support of a majority of the  
5 quorum is required for adoption of any action."

6 SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--Sections 5  
7 through 11 of this act may be cited as the "Research,  
8 Development and Deployment Fund Act".

9 SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the  
10 Research, Development and Deployment Fund Act:

11 A. "applicant" means a person or entity applying  
12 for project funding;

13 B. "applicant match" means money for a project  
14 provided by an applicant or a partnering entity that is not a  
15 political subdivision of the state;

16 C. "board" means the technology and innovation  
17 network advisory board established pursuant to Section 3 of  
18 this 2025 act;

19 D. "business" means any corporation, partnership,  
20 limited liability company, joint venture or other similar legal  
21 entity registered in New Mexico;

22 E. "department" means the economic development  
23 department;

24 F. "division" means the technology and innovation  
25 division of the department;

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1           G. "documented need" means language in  
2 solicitations for non-state funding or other communications  
3 from authorized officials within a non-state funding agency or  
4 corporation that clearly states that regional or institutional  
5 support, commitments or matching funds will be used in the  
6 evaluation of proposals for non-state funding;

7           H. "fund" means the research, development and  
8 deployment fund;

9           I. "public entity" means a political subdivision of  
10 the state, a state agency or a national laboratory or public  
11 post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico; and

12           J. "target sector" means aerospace and space,  
13 biosciences, clean energy and water, advanced computing, which  
14 includes artificial intelligence, quantum computing and  
15 cybersecurity, and other sectors that are strategic and  
16 important for statewide economic development.

17           SECTION 7. [NEW MATERIAL] RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND  
18 DEPLOYMENT FUND.--

19           A. The "research, development and deployment fund"  
20 is created as a nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The  
21 fund consists of distributions, appropriations, gifts, grants,  
22 donations and income from investment of the fund. The  
23 department shall administer the fund. Money in the fund is  
24 appropriated to the department for the purposes of catalyzing  
25 innovation, economic growth and job creation by providing

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1 early-stage capital and financial support to emerging  
2 technologies, start-up businesses and research initiatives that  
3 align with the state's economic development plan through  
4 project awards pursuant to the Research, Development and  
5 Deployment Fund Act.

6 B. Expenditures from the fund shall be by warrant  
7 of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to  
8 vouchers signed by the secretary of economic development or the  
9 secretary's authorized representative.

10 SECTION 8. [NEW MATERIAL] PROJECT MATCH FUNDING--  
11 DEPARTMENT DUTIES--APPLICATIONS.--

12 A. The division shall administer the provisions of  
13 the Research, Development and Deployment Fund Act to provide  
14 project match funding to applicants that meet all eligibility  
15 requirements. The division shall:

16 (1) establish a streamlined and rolling-basis  
17 application process pursuant to the requirements of the  
18 Research, Development and Deployment Fund Act, with:

19 (a) eligibility requirements and funding  
20 priorities, which shall be established in consultation with the  
21 board;

22 (b) the goal of reviewing and processing  
23 all applications within thirty-one days from the date an  
24 application is received by the division; and

25 (c) an option for the expedited review

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1 and processing of applications for applicants who submit  
2 additional justifying documentation of exigent circumstances,  
3 as required by the department;

4 (2) establish clear application evaluation  
5 criteria that are aligned with state economic development  
6 goals;

7 (3) award project funding in consultation with  
8 the board's recommendations;

9 (4) verify applicant match funding  
10 requirements for a project;

11 (5) monitor ongoing compliance with a funded  
12 project's match requirements;

13 (6) establish procedures for addressing  
14 undelivered applicant funding commitments;

15 (7) annually report with the department to the  
16 legislature and governor on the administration, performance and  
17 efficacy of the Research, Development and Deployment Fund Act;  
18 and

19 (8) promulgate rules necessary to implement  
20 and administer the provisions of the Research, Development and  
21 Deployment Fund Act, in consultation with the board.

22 B. Applications may be submitted:

23 (1) up to three hundred sixty-five days prior  
24 to anticipated federal or private sector grant deadlines for  
25 new or recurring published opportunities;

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1 (2) for pending proposals with multistage  
2 reviews that have been submitted but have not had an award  
3 finalized or, subject to department approval, within ninety  
4 days after such an award is finalized;

5 (3) for project funding awards pending  
6 successful non-state funding or private grant applications; and

7 (4) for re-application by an applicant who has  
8 previously been denied project funding; provided that the  
9 applicant makes changes and improvements based on any feedback  
10 received from the prior application.

11 C. In administering the provisions of the Research,  
12 Development and Deployment Fund Act, the division shall not:

13 (1) limit reviews to cycles exceeding monthly  
14 time frames but shall accept and review applications on an  
15 ongoing, rolling basis;

16 (2) impose limitations on the amount of  
17 project funding that may be awarded to public post-secondary  
18 educational institutions, except as provided in the Research,  
19 Development and Deployment Fund Act; or

20 (3) restrict the awarding of project funding  
21 to only research activities.

22 SECTION 9. [NEW MATERIAL] ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS--  
23 APPLICANT MATCH.--

24 A. To be eligible for project funding:

25 (1) an applicant shall be a public entity or a

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1 business registered in New Mexico;

2 (2) an applicant's project shall be reasonably  
3 expected to do three or more of the following in New Mexico:

4 (a) advance innovation in at least one  
5 of the target sectors;

6 (b) foster collaboration between at  
7 least two of the following: private industry, a national  
8 laboratory, a federal agency or a public entity;

9 (c) leverage federal or private  
10 investment;

11 (d) create new economic opportunities;  
12 and

13 (e) create new jobs and workforce  
14 training opportunities;

15 (3) an applicant shall submit:

16 (a) a project budget that includes  
17 proposed and anticipated funding from state and non-state  
18 sources;

19 (b) one or more letters of support or  
20 letters of commitment of resources to the project from  
21 partners;

22 (c) if a public entity, at least one  
23 partnership agreement entered into for the purposes of the  
24 project from partners not under the control of the applicant;

25 (d) if not a public entity, at least one

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1 partnership agreement entered into for the purposes of the  
2 project with a public entity other than the department;

3 (e) a time line detailing when and how  
4 project funding will be expended;

5 (f) a time line for applicant match and  
6 non-state funding availability; and

7 (g) a valuation methodology for in-kind  
8 contributions;

9 (4) an applicant shall submit evidence  
10 satisfactory to the division that the applicant has received  
11 applicant match in an amount that is equal to or greater than  
12 the amount of project funding the applicant is requesting,  
13 including certification by the applicant of such a fact;

14 (5) if an applicant is seeking project funding  
15 in connection with or as part of a separate application for  
16 grant money that requires cost sharing, matching funds,  
17 institutional support or regional financial commitments as a  
18 condition of eligibility for that grant money, the applicant  
19 shall submit written evidence from the entity providing that  
20 grant money that clearly states such requirements will be used  
21 in the evaluation of applications for that grant money. If no  
22 such written evidence exists of the requirements for  
23 institutional support or regional financial commitment, the  
24 applicant may submit alternative proof of the requirements and  
25 the division shall establish criteria and, on a case-by-case

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1 basis, evaluate whether the proof is sufficient; and

2 (6) an applicant shall meet all other  
3 eligibility requirements of the division, which the division  
4 shall establish in consultation with the board.

5 B. In lieu of evidence of documented need for  
6 project funding required pursuant to Subsection A of this  
7 section, an applicant may include with the applicant's  
8 application a justification for why project funding is  
9 necessary for the project to be successful and effectively  
10 promote state interests in one or more target sectors.

11 C. The division may reduce applicant match  
12 requirements by up to fifty percent for projects:

13 (1) that primarily benefit communities that  
14 are rural or part of Indian nations, tribes or pueblos;

15 (2) led by minority-serving public post-  
16 secondary educational institutions as defined in federal law;  
17 or

18 (3) that address critical state needs as  
19 determined by the department in its statewide economic plan.

20 D. An in-kind contribution to a project may qualify  
21 as a portion of the applicant's required match when the:

22 (1) value of the in-kind contribution can be  
23 independently verified;

24 (2) in-kind contribution is essential to the  
25 project's success, as determined by the division;

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1 (3) in-kind contribution would otherwise be a  
2 legitimate project expense; and

3 (4) total in-kind contributions to a project  
4 constitute no more than fifty percent of the applicant match.

5 SECTION 10. [NEW MATERIAL] PROJECT FUNDING AWARDS--  
6 PROCESS--TERMS.--

7 A. Priority shall be given to projects that:

8 (1) create high-quality, high-wage jobs in New  
9 Mexico;

10 (2) have higher percentages of matching funds  
11 from non-public entities;

12 (3) demonstrate strong potential for  
13 commercialization and making New Mexico a national leader in  
14 the target sectors;

15 (4) support the growth of New Mexico-based  
16 companies;

17 (5) benefit communities that are rural or in  
18 an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo; and

19 (6) provide opportunities for broad regional  
20 participation.

21 B. Awards of project funding shall:

22 (1) allow for multiyear project periods  
23 aligned with federal or private sector grant or other non-state  
24 funding opportunity time lines;

25 (2) permit pre-award project spending by

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1 applicants when necessary to meet non-state grant application  
2 deadlines; provided that applicants shall use non-state funding  
3 or other institutional funding for pre-award spending; and

4 (3) provide that a certain amount of the  
5 funding may be used for an applicant's administrative costs to  
6 implement the project.

7 SECTION 11. [NEW MATERIAL] REPORTING.--On or before  
8 December 1 of 2025 and of every year thereafter, the department  
9 shall provide a report to the governor, the legislative finance  
10 committee and the appropriate interim committees that study  
11 economic development regarding the administration, efficacy and  
12 performance of the Research, Development and Deployment Fund  
13 Act, including:

- 14 A. projects that have been awarded funding;
- 15 B. for each project, the dollar amounts awarded,  
16 the amount of non-state matching funds the project received and  
17 the amount of non-state funding leveraged;
- 18 C. updates on the progress, performance, outcomes  
19 and impacts of each project that was awarded funding;
- 20 D. total jobs created and retained in New Mexico;
- 21 E. return on investment of state money spent  
22 pursuant to the Research, Development and Deployment Fund Act;
- 23 F. any additional investment that was attracted to  
24 the state and state-owned businesses; and
- 25 G. other relevant performance metrics, including

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1 those recommended by the board to measure the success of the  
2 Research, Development and Deployment Fund Act and the state's  
3 investment of public money pursuant to that act.

4 SECTION 12. A new section of the Economic Development  
5 Department Act is enacted to read:

6 "[NEW MATERIAL] TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PRIZE--ELIGIBILITY--  
7 REQUIREMENTS--PARTICIPATION--ADMINISTRATION.--

8 A. The department shall establish and administer  
9 the "technology innovation prize program". The prize program  
10 shall provide:

11 (1) no less than five million dollars  
12 (\$5,000,000) for the top award recipient;

13 (2) no less than one million dollars  
14 (\$1,000,000) each for the next two award recipients; and

15 (3) additional award amounts as recommended  
16 and approved by the technology and innovation network advisory  
17 board.

18 B. Technology innovation prizes shall only be  
19 awarded to companies that provide technological innovation in  
20 the following sectors:

21 (1) clean energy and water;

22 (2) aerospace and space;

23 (3) advanced computing, including quantum  
24 computing, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity;

25 (4) biosciences; or

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1 (5) other sectors that are recommended through  
2 resolution of the technology and innovation network advisory  
3 board.

4 C. To be eligible for a technology innovation  
5 prize, an applicant shall:

6 (1) be a business registered in New Mexico;

7 (2) have a substantial presence in New Mexico  
8 or commit to establishing such presence; and

9 (3) in the case of an international applicant,  
10 maintain a contractual partnership with a New Mexico-based  
11 entity.

12 D. Before receiving technology innovation prize  
13 money, a recipient shall enter into a contract with the  
14 department that requires the recipient to:

15 (1) maintain operations and a substantial  
16 presence in New Mexico for a minimum of three years after  
17 receiving the award;

18 (2) create and maintain for at least three  
19 years after receiving prize money a number of jobs in New  
20 Mexico, as required by the department;

21 (3) participate in science, technology,  
22 engineering and mathematics education initiatives within the  
23 state; and

24 (4) repay to the department the prize money at  
25 a fair current market interest rate if the recipient accepts

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1 the prize money and fails to meet a requirement of this  
2 section.

3 E. The department shall establish or coordinate  
4 with existing programs to provide technology innovation prize  
5 money recipients with:

6 (1) access to New Mexico's national  
7 laboratories for consultation;

8 (2) mentorship opportunities with industry  
9 experts; and

10 (3) networking events with potential investors  
11 and partners.

12 F. The department, with approval from the  
13 technology and innovation network advisory board and for the  
14 purposes of administering the technology innovation prize  
15 program, shall create a steering committee, develop program  
16 time lines, establish application rules and guidelines,  
17 establish partnerships and determine resource allocation.

18 G. The department shall promulgate rules as  
19 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

20 H. As used in this section, "business" means any  
21 corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint  
22 venture or other similar legal entity."

23 SECTION 13. Section 9-15-18 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991,  
24 Chapter 21, Section 23) is amended to read:

25 "9-15-18. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.--

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1           A. Any information obtained by the technology  
2 [~~enterprise~~] and innovation division that is deemed by the  
3 director to be proprietary technical or business information  
4 shall be held in confidence. Proprietary technical or business  
5 information shall not be deemed a public record under the  
6 Public Records Act or be open to inspection under Section  
7 14-2-1 NMSA 1978. The technology [~~enterprise~~] and innovation  
8 division shall take such steps as are necessary to safeguard  
9 the confidentiality of the information.

10           B. Notwithstanding Sections 10-15-1 through 10-15-4  
11 NMSA 1978 or any other law requiring meetings of public bodies  
12 to be open to the public, meetings of the commission shall be  
13 closed when proprietary technical or business information is  
14 discussed."

15           SECTION 14. Section 9-15-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991,  
16 Chapter 21, Section 24) is repealed and a new Section 9-15-19  
17 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

18           "9-15-19. [NEW MATERIAL] TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FUND  
19 CREATED.--The "technology and innovation fund" is created as a  
20 nonreverting fund in the state treasury to replace the  
21 technology enterprise fund. The fund consists of  
22 distributions, appropriations, gifts, grants, donations, money  
23 from cooperative research and technology transfer agreements  
24 and income from investment of the fund. The economic  
25 development department shall administer the fund. Money in the

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1 fund is subject to appropriation by the legislature for  
2 administering the provisions of Section 2 of this 2025 act.  
3 Expenditures from the fund shall be by warrant of the secretary  
4 of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by  
5 the secretary of economic development or the secretary's  
6 authorized representative."

7 SECTION 15. TEMPORARY PROVISION--TRANSFER.--

8 A. On the effective date of this act:

9 (1) the office of strategy, science and  
10 technology of the economic development department and the  
11 office of entrepreneurship of the economic development  
12 department, including the functions, personnel, appropriations,  
13 money, records and other property of those offices, shall be  
14 transferred to the technology and innovation division of the  
15 economic development department; and

16 (2) money in the technology enterprise fund  
17 shall be transferred to the technology and innovation fund.

18 B. The secretary of economic development shall  
19 assign other programs and funds management to the appropriate  
20 division.

21 C. Contractual obligations of any of the  
22 transferred units of the economic development department shall  
23 continue to be obligations of the department.

24 SECTION 16. APPROPRIATIONS.--

25 A. One hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) is  
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1 appropriated from the general fund to the research, development  
2 and deployment fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 and  
3 subsequent fiscal years for the purposes of the fund. Any  
4 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a  
5 fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

6 B. Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is  
7 appropriated from the general fund to the economic development  
8 department for expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2029 to  
9 award prizes pursuant to the technology innovation prize  
10 program. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at  
11 the end of fiscal year 2029 shall revert to the general fund.

12 SECTION 17. REPEAL.--Sections 9-15-16 and 9-15-17 NMSA  
13 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 21, Sections 21 and 22) are  
14 repealed.

15 SECTION 18. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
16 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025.