

HOUSE BILL 423

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

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER FOR
WATER SECURITY PLANNING ACT, WATER DATA ACT AND RIO GRANDE
COMPACT COMPLIANCE MEASURES.

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION--WATER PLANNING.--Thirty million
dollars (\$30,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to
the office of the state engineer for expenditure in fiscal
years 2026 through 2028 for the interstate stream commission
pursuant to the Water Security Planning Act to provide grants
to political subdivisions of the state as fiscal agents for
regional water planning entities. Any unexpended or
unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2028
shall revert to the general fund.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION--WATER DATA ACT COMPLIANCE.--

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1 Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) is appropriated from the
2 general fund to the office of the state engineer for
3 expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2028 for the office of
4 the state engineer and the interstate stream commission to
5 improve business processes and information technology systems
6 for internal and public access to water data and to fully
7 comply with the agencies' Water Data Act responsibilities as
8 directing agencies and the agencies' Water Security Planning
9 Act responsibilities as water data providers. Any unexpended
10 or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year
11 2028 shall revert to the general fund.

12 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION--WATER RIGHTS.--Two million
13 dollars (\$2,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to
14 the office of the state engineer for expenditure in fiscal
15 years 2026 and 2027 to promulgate rules pursuant to Section
16 72-2-9.1 NMSA 1978 and take actions required to enforce Rio
17 Grande water rights along the Rio Grande from the Los Alamos
18 highway bridge to Elephant Butte reservoir to ensure compliance
19 with New Mexico's water delivery obligations to Elephant Butte
20 reservoir pursuant to the Rio Grande Compact. Any unexpended
21 or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year
22 2027 shall revert to the general fund.