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AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER; ENACTING THE WATER DATA ACT; DIRECTING AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY AND INTEGRATE KEY WATER DATA SETS; PROVIDING DUTIES; DIRECTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WATER DATA ACCOUNT.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Water Data Act".

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Water Data Act:

A. "agencies" means:

(1) the bureau of geology and mineral resources of the New Mexico institute of mining and technology;

(2) the interstate stream commission;

(3) the office of the state engineer;

(4) the department of environment; and

(5) the energy, minerals and natural resources department;

B. "data and information platform" means software, hardware and tools that collect, organize, integrate, distribute and archive water data that at a minimum:

(1) integrate water data managed by state and local entities using consistent and standardized formats; and

1 (2) integrate:

2 (a) state and local government data on  
3 streamflow, precipitation, reservoir and irrigation system  
4 operations, ground water use and levels, municipal and  
5 industrial water use and land uses, but not including data  
6 from residential wells;

7 (b) data on water rights, water  
8 diversions and water quality; and

9 (c) data on fish, aquatic and riparian  
10 systems and ecological data; and

11 C. "water data" means measurements of basic  
12 properties relating to the planning and management of water  
13 resources, including streamflow, precipitation, ground water,  
14 water quality and water use in agriculture, industry and  
15 municipal uses and natural systems.

16 **SECTION 3. WATER DATA AGENCIES--DUTIES--STANDARDS AND**  
17 **BEST PRACTICES--ANNUAL PLAN.--**

18 A. By January 1, 2020, the agencies, as convened  
19 by the bureau of geology and mineral resources of the New  
20 Mexico institute of mining and technology, shall:

21 (1) identify key water data, information and  
22 tools needed to support water management and planning;

23 (2) develop common water data standards for  
24 data collection;

25 (3) develop an integrated water data and

1 information platform; and

2 (4) identify available and unavailable water  
3 data.

4 B. Water research undertaken with state funding  
5 shall comply with the common water data standards and best  
6 practices developed by the agencies.

7 C. The agencies shall collaborate with other  
8 regional and national efforts to share, integrate and manage  
9 water data.

10 D. Within two hundred seventy-five days of  
11 enactment of the Water Data Act, and thereafter annually by  
12 September 1 of each year, the agencies shall develop and  
13 submit a plan to the governor and the appropriate interim  
14 legislative committee that details:

15 (1) an assessment of water data and  
16 information needs to support water management and planning;

17 (2) goals, targets and actions to carry out  
18 the purposes of the Water Data Act in the upcoming fiscal  
19 year;

20 (3) budgetary resources to carry out the  
21 purposes of the Water Data Act; and

22 (4) metrics for achieving the purposes of  
23 the Water Data Act.

24 SECTION 4. WATER DATA ACCOUNT.--The board of regents of  
25 the New Mexico institute of mining and technology shall

1 establish a "water data account" to receive appropriations  
2 from the legislature and gifts, grants or donations for the  
3 bureau of geology and mineral resources to carry out the  
4 purposes of the Water Data Act. \_\_\_\_\_

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