

1 SENATE BILL 180

2 **55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pat Woods

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES; ENACTING THE NEW MEXICO
12 REFORESTATION CENTER ACT; DIRECTING THE FORESTRY DIVISION OF
13 THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO ENTER
14 INTO A JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
15 AT NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY, THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT
16 STATION AT NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
17 BIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO TO CREATE THE NEW
18 MEXICO REFORESTATION CENTER TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE
19 CHANGE ON THE STATE'S FORESTS AND ADDRESS THE STATE'S
20 REFORESTATION NEEDS; CREATING A BOARD; DIRECTING THE
21 ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEDICATED ACCOUNT FOR FUNDING; MAKING AN
22 APPROPRIATION.

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

25 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--JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT.--

4 A. The forestry division of the energy, minerals
5 and natural resources department shall enter into a joint
6 powers agreement with the department of forestry of New Mexico
7 highlands university, the agricultural experiment station of
8 New Mexico state university and the department of biology of
9 the 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 climate change on the state's forests
13 and meet the state's current and future reforestation needs
14 through establishment of a seed bank program, a nursery program
15 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 joint powers agreement shall specify the
6 areas of 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 highlands university shall act
10 as 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;

7 (3) the director of reforestation of New
8 Mexico state university;

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

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

16 C. A majority of the members of the board
17 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

18 D. The board shall elect from its membership the
19 chair of the board. Each member of the board shall serve as
20 chair on a rotating basis.

21 E. The powers and duties of the board shall be
22 specified in the joint powers agreement entered into pursuant
23 to Section 2 of the New Mexico Reforestation Center Act;
24 provided that the board shall have responsibility for:

25 (1) strategic planning for the New Mexico

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1 reforestation center; and

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

4 SECTION 4. ~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ NEW MEXICO REFORESTATION CENTER
5 ACCOUNT.--By July 1, 2021, the board of regents of New Mexico
6 highlands university shall establish a "New Mexico
7 reforestation center account" to receive appropriations from
8 the legislature, gifts, grants or donations and revenues and
9 receipts derived from the operations of the New Mexico
10 reforestation center. Money in the New Mexico reforestation
11 center account shall be used for the operations of the New
12 Mexico reforestation center, including salaries, as provided in
13 the joint powers agreement entered into pursuant to Section 2
14 of the New Mexico Reforestation Center Act. Money in the
15 account shall not revert to any other fund or account at the
16 end of a fiscal year.

17 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION.--Four million six hundred eight
18 thousand one hundred dollars (\$4,608,100) is appropriated from
19 the general fund to the board of regents of New Mexico
20 highlands university for deposit in the New Mexico
21 reforestation center account and for expenditure in fiscal year
22 2022 and subsequent fiscal years for the first-year operational
23 expenses of the New Mexico reforestation center as provided in
24 the joint powers agreement entered into pursuant to Section 2
25 of the New Mexico Reforestation Center Act. Any unexpended or
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1 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year
2 shall not revert to the general fund; provided that if the
3 joint powers agreement required by Section 2 of the New Mexico
4 Reforestation Center Act is not entered into by July 1, 2022,
5 the amount appropriated in this section shall revert to the
6 general fund.