

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE FIRE PROTECTION GRANT COUNCIL; ELIMINATING
CERTAIN APPOINTEE EXCLUSIONS.

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

Section 1. Section 59A-53-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
2006, Chapter 103, Section 8) is amended to read:

"59A-53-19. FIRE PROTECTION GRANT COUNCIL--DUTIES.--

A. The "fire protection grant council" is created.
Subject to the requirements of Subsection B of this section,
the council shall consist of:

(1) a representative of the New Mexico
municipal league;

(2) a representative of the New Mexico
association of counties;

(3) two members appointed by the public
regulation commission who shall serve at the pleasure of the
commission;

(4) three members, one from each
congressional district, appointed by the governor who shall
serve at the pleasure of the governor; and

(5) the marshal, who shall serve as a
nonvoting advisory member. The council shall elect a chair
and vice chair from its membership.

B. No appointee to the council shall be a member

of the public regulation commission, the superintendent of insurance or any other employee of the commission.

C. The public members shall receive per diem and mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or allowance.

D. The council shall develop criteria for assessing the critical needs of municipal and county fire districts for fire apparatus and equipment, communications equipment, equipment for wildfires, fire station construction or expansion or equipment for hazardous material response.

E. Applications for grant assistance from the fire protection grant fund shall be made by fire districts to the council in accordance with the requirements of the council. Using criteria developed by the council, the council shall evaluate applications and prioritize those applications most in need of grant assistance from the fund. To the extent that money in the fund is available, the council shall award grant assistance for those prioritized applications.

F. In awarding grant assistance, the council may require conditions and procedures necessary to ensure that the money is expended in the most prudent manner." _____