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SENATE BILL 22

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Rod Adair

AN ACT

CREATING THE NEW MEXICO BUDGET REFORM COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Section 1. NEW MEXICO BUDGET REFORM COMMISSION CREATED--MEMBERSHIP--APPOINTMENT--DUTIES.--

A. The "New Mexico budget reform commission" is created and shall function from the date of its appointment until January 15, 2010.

B. The commission shall consist of twenty-three members appointed as follows:

(1) five members of the house of representatives shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and five members of the senate shall be

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1 appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate. Members
2 shall be appointed from each house so as to give the two major
3 political parties in each house the same proportional
4 representation on the commission as prevails in each house;
5 however, in no event shall either party have less than one
6 member from each house on the commission;

7 (2) two public members shall be appointed by
8 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president
9 pro tempore of the senate; and

10 (3) eleven public members shall be appointed
11 by the governor to represent a broad range of views and
12 expertise on economic issues. These members shall include at
13 least one member to represent municipal governments, at least
14 one member to represent county governments and at least one
15 member to represent Native American tribes, pueblos and
16 nations.

17 C. Appointments to the commission shall be made no
18 later than ten days after the effective date of this act. The
19 governor, in consultation with the speaker of the house of
20 representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate,
21 shall appoint a chair from among the members of the commission
22 within three days of the appointment of the commission. The
23 commission may elect such other officers as it deems necessary
24 to carry out its duties.

25 D. The commission shall meet at the call of the

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1 chair as necessary to carry out its duties. The first meeting
2 shall be held no later than November 15, 2009.

3 E. Three absences from meetings of the commission
4 shall constitute grounds for removal of a member of the
5 commission. Upon the request of the chair of the commission,
6 the appointing authority shall replace the public member who
7 has failed to attend three meetings of the commission.

8 F. A majority of the members appointed constitutes
9 a quorum for the transaction of business. The support of a
10 majority of the members appointed is required for adoption of
11 any action by the commission; provided, however, that the
12 final report of the commission, including its recommendations
13 and proposed legislation, must have the support of a majority
14 of the legislative members.

15 G. The commission shall develop recommendations to
16 comprehensively evaluate and reprioritize New Mexico's general
17 fund budget, establishing a balanced framework for
18 appropriations, eliminating programs that are not essential,
19 reducing appropriations where required and increasing
20 appropriations where necessary, while maintaining necessary
21 government services at an appropriate level. To carry out this
22 task, the commission shall examine New Mexico's entire budget,
23 identify its strengths and deficiencies and consider every
24 expenditure in detail and scrutinize every line item of the
25 state budget. The commission shall recommend all changes,

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1 reappropriations and eliminations or additions of line items as
2 appropriate. The commission shall submit a report of its
3 findings, including specific recommendations and proposed
4 legislation, to the governor and the New Mexico legislative
5 council no later than January 15, 2010.

6 H. The commission shall hire or contract for
7 appropriate staff. Staff shall assist the commission as
8 directed by the chair, including conducting interviews
9 with parties that wish to express their views to the commission
10 and synthesizing this information for the commission. The
11 commission may request assistance from the legislative council
12 service, the legislative finance committee and the department
13 of finance and administration.

14 I. Members of the commission shall be reimbursed
15 for per diem and mileage expenses as provided for public
16 officers in the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

17 Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred thousand dollars
18 (\$100,000) is appropriated from legislative cash balances to
19 the legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal year
20 2010 to carry out the provisions of this act, including staff
21 salaries and reimbursement of the per diem and mileage expenses
22 of the New Mexico budget reform commission. Any unexpended or
23 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010
24 shall revert to the general fund. Payments from the
25 appropriation shall be made upon vouchers signed by the

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1 director of the legislative council service or the director's
2 authorized representative.

3 Section 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
4 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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