

1 HOUSE BILL 547

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; DIRECTING THE WORKFORCE  
12 SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT TO STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
13 ISSUES RELATED TO A TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY;  
14 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

17 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS  
18 DEPARTMENT--CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY TRANSITION STUDY.--

19 A. The workforce solutions department shall study,  
20 and prepare a report with recommendations by July 15, 2020, the  
21 opportunities for and barriers to transitioning to a clean  
22 energy economy as provided in this section. The final report  
23 shall be provided to the governor and presented to the interim  
24 legislative committee that addresses economic development  
25 issues by October 1, 2020.

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1           B. The workforce solutions department shall  
2 study the opportunities for and barriers to transitioning to a  
3 clean energy economy in low-income and rural communities. The  
4 department shall coordinate with relevant state agencies, the  
5 office of the governor, nongovernmental organizations and other  
6 stakeholders in undertaking this aspect of the study and shall  
7 study and report on the opportunities for and barriers to a  
8 clean energy economy in low-income and rural communities in the  
9 following areas:

- 10                       (1) solar, wind, solar thermal energy  
11 generation and other renewable energy resource generation;  
12                       (2) expanding contracting for local small  
13 businesses in disadvantaged communities;  
14                       (3) low-income individuals and communities  
15 accessing energy efficiency and weatherization programs, with  
16 special consideration given to disadvantaged communities;  
17                       (4) low-income individuals and communities  
18 accessing zero emission transportation options, with special  
19 consideration given to disadvantaged communities; and  
20                       (5) participation in outdoor recreation and  
21 public lands preservation.

22           C. The workforce solutions department shall study  
23 and provide recommendations on the need for increased  
24 education, career and technical education, job training and  
25 workforce development resources or capacity to help industries,

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1 workers and communities transition to economic and labor-market  
2 changes related to a transition to a clean energy economy. The  
3 department shall:

4 (1) work with nongovernmental organizations  
5 and interested stakeholders on this aspect of the study and may  
6 request the assistance of state agencies with expertise in the  
7 subject matter of the study, including the:

- 8 (a) public education department;
- 9 (b) higher education department;
- 10 (c) economic development department;
- 11 (d) department of environment;
- 12 (e) energy, minerals and natural  
13 resources department; and
- 14 (f) state land office; and

15 (2) address and provide recommendations in the  
16 final report on how the state may best:

- 17 (a) create and retain jobs and stimulate  
18 economic activity in the state;
- 19 (b) embed workforce training and  
20 employment services in infrastructure investments so that  
21 services are more directly connected to the jobs created;
- 22 (c) use community benefits agreements,  
23 community workforce agreements and project labor agreements to  
24 connect workforce services;
- 25 (d) prepare the state's students with

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1 relevant career and technical education to respond to business  
2 and industry workforce requirements;

3 (e) develop worker retraining programs  
4 to assist the existing workforce with the necessary tools to  
5 upgrade skills;

6 (f) respond to the job creation and  
7 workforce needs of the state's new and emerging industries,  
8 including emerging technology industries that will assist with  
9 clean energy transition and natural resource protection;

10 (g) develop job training programs to  
11 assist disadvantaged communities;

12 (h) provide opportunities for  
13 community-based organizations to partner with local workforce  
14 agencies and others to improve the labor-market outcomes of  
15 targeted populations;

16 (i) target workforce development  
17 programs and activities in disadvantaged communities; and

18 (j) identify state and federal funding  
19 resources to implement the recommendations made in the report.

20 D. The workforce solutions department shall  
21 identify in its report disadvantaged communities to prioritize  
22 for economic development opportunities related to New Mexico's  
23 transition to a sustainable and clean energy economy.

24 Communities shall be identified based on geographic,  
25 socioeconomic, public health and environmental hazard criteria

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1 and may include areas:

2 (1) disproportionately affected by  
3 environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to  
4 negative public health effects, exposure or environmental  
5 degradation; or

6 (2) with concentrations of people that are of  
7 low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership,  
8 high rent burden or low levels of educational attainment or are  
9 sensitive populations.

10 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred thousand dollars  
11 (\$200,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
12 workforce solutions department for expenditure in fiscal years  
13 2020 and 2021 to study and report on the opportunities for and  
14 barriers to transitioning to a clean energy economy as provided  
15 in Section 1 of this act. Any unexpended or unencumbered  
16 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert  
17 to the general fund.