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SENATE BILL 1169

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

DI ANNA J. DURAN

AN ACT

RELATING TO SUBDIVISIONS; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR SUBDIVIDING LAND; PROVIDING FOR INCREASED CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES; REPEALING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NEW MEXICO SUBDIVISION ACT.

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

Section 1. Section 47-6-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 1) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-1 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE. -- Sections 1 through 27 of this act may be cited as the "Subdivision Act"."

Section 2. Section 47-6-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 2, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-2 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS. -- As used in the

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Subdivision Act:

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- "lease" means to lease or offer to lease land; Α.
- B. "parcel" means any parcel of land not dedicated for public or common use;
- "person" means any individual, estate, trust, receiver, cooperative association, club, corporation, company, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate or other entity;
- "plat" means a map, chart, survey, plan or replat certified by a licensed, registered land surveyor containing a description of the subdivided land with ties to permanent monuments:
 - "sell" means to sell or offer to sell land; E.
- F. "terrain management" means the control of floods, drainage and erosion and measures required for adapting proposed development to existing soil characteristics and topography;
- G. "subdivide" means to divide a surface area of land into a subdivision:
- "subdivider" means any person who creates or who H. has created a subdivision individually or as part of a common promotional plan or any person engaged in the sale or lease of subdivided land which is being sold or leased or has been sold or leased within the preceding three years by the owner in the ordinary course of business; however, "subdivider" does not include any duly licensed real estate broker or salesperson acting on his own account;

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I. "subdivision" means the division of a surface
area of land, including land within a previously approved
subdivision, into two or more parcels for the purpose of sale,
lease or other conveyance or for building development, whether,
immediate or future, but "subdivision" does not include:

- (1) the sale, lease or other conveyance of any parcel that is thirty-five acres or larger in size within any twelve-month period, provided that the land has been used primarily and continuously for agricultural purposes, in accordance with Section 7-36-20 NMSA 1978, for the preceding three years;
- (2) the sale or lease or apartments, offices, stores or similar space within a building;
- (3) the division of land within the boundaries of a municipality;
- (4) the division of land in which only gas, oil, mineral or water rights are severed from the surface ownership of the land;
- (5) the division of land created by court order where the order creates no more than one parcel per party;
- (6) the division of land for grazing or farming activities provided the land continues to be used for grazing or farming activities;
- (7) the division of land resulting only in the alteration of parcel boundaries where parcels are altered for

the purpose of increasing or reducing the size of contiguous parcels and where the number of parcels is not increased;

- (8) the division of land to create burial plots in a cemetery;
- (9) the division of land to create a parcel that is sold or donated as a gift to an immediate family member; however, this exception shall be limited to allow the seller or donor to sell or give no more than one parcel per tract of land per immediate family member;
- (10) the division of land created to provide security for mortgages, liens or deeds of trust; provided that the division of land is not the result of a seller-financed transaction:
- (11) the sale, lease or other conveyance of land that creates no parcel smaller than one hundred forty acres;
- that is donated to any trust or nonprofit corporation granted an exemption from federal income tax, as described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; school, college or other institution with a defined curriculum and a student body and faculty that conducts classes on a regular basis; or to any church or group organized for the purpose of divine worship, religious teaching or other specifically religious activity; or

single parcel from a tract of land, except from a tract within a previously approved subdivision, within any five-year period; provided that a second or subsequent sale, lease or other conveyance from the same tract of land within five years of the first sale, lease or other conveyance shall be subject to the provisions of the Subdivision Act; provided further that a survey shall be filed with the county clerk indicating the five-year holding period for both the original tract and the newly created tract:

- J. "time of purchase or lease" means the time of signing any document obligating the person signing the document to purchase, lease or otherwise acquire a legal interest in land as a lessee:
- K. "common promotional plan" means any plan or scheme of operation, undertaken by a single subdivider or a group of subdividers acting in concert, to offer for sale or lease parcels of land where such land is either contiguous or part of the same area of land or is known, designated or advertised as a common unit or by a common name;
- L. "type-one subdivision" means any subdivision containing five hundred or more parcels, any one of which is less than ten acres in size;
- M "type-two subdivision" means any subdivision containing not fewer than twenty-five but not more than four

[bracketed material] = delete

hundred ninety-nine parcels, any one of which is less than ten acres in size;

- N. "type-three subdivision" means any subdivision containing not fewer than five but not more than twenty-four parcels, any one of which is less than ten acres in size;
- 0. "type-four subdivision" means any subdivision containing twenty-five or more parcels, each of which is ten acres or more in size; and
- P. "type-five subdivision" means any subdivision containing not fewer than three parcels and not more than twenty-four parcels, each of which is ten acres or more in size."

Section 3. Section 47-6-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 3) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-3 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-3. [NEW MATERIAL] SUBDIVISION--DESCRIPTION.--Any person desiring to subdivide land shall have a plat of the proposed subdivision certified by a surveyor registered in New Mexico. The plat shall define the subdivision and all roads by reference to permanent monuments, accurately describe each parcel, number each parcel in progression and give its dimensions and the dimensions of all land dedicated for public use or for the use of the owners of parcels fronting or adjacent to the land. Descriptions of parcels by number and plat designation are valid in conveyances and valid for the purpose

of taxation."

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Section 47-6-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Section 4. Chapter 348, Section 4) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-4 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-4. [NEW MATERIAL] PLAT ACKNOWLEDGMENT--AFFIDAVIT. --Every plat shall contain a statement that the land being subdivided is subdivided in accordance with the desire of the owner of the land. The plat shall be acknowledged by the owner or his authorized agent in the manner required for the acknowledgment of deeds. Every plat submitted to the county clerk shall be accompanied by an affidavit of the owner or his authorized agent stating whether or not the proposed subdivision lies within the subdivision regulation jurisdiction of the county. "

Section 5. Section 47-6-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 5, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-5 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-5. [NEW MATERIAL] DEDICATION FOR PUBLIC USE--MAINTENANCE. -- Approval of a plat by the board of county commissioners dedicates the land designated on the plat for public use. Dedicated land is public property, and the fee vests in the county if the dedicated land lies outside the boundaries of a municipality. The plat shall clearly state that the subdivider has agreed to build the roads within the subdivision in full conformance with the requirements of the

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county subdivision regulations. Upon full conformance with the county road construction standards, the roads may be accepted for maintenance by the county."

Section 6. Section 47-6-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 6, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-6 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-6. [NEW MATERIAL] FILING WITH COUNTY CLERK. -- The county clerk may not accept any plat subject to the Subdivision Act for filing that has not been approved as provided in the Subdivision Act.

Section 7. Section 47-6-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 7) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-7 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-7. [NEW MATERIAL] VACATION OF PLATS--APPROVAL--DUTIES OF COUNTY CLERK--EFFECT. --

A. Any plat filed in the office of the county clerk may be vacated or a portion of the plat may be vacated if:

- (1) the owners of the land proposed to be vacated sign an acknowledged statement, declaring the plat or a portion of the plat to be vacated; and
- (2) the statement is approved by the board of county commissioners of the county within whose platting authority the vacated portion of the subdivision is located.
- B. In approving the vacation of all or a part of a plat, the board of county commissioners shall determine whether

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persons on contiguous land or persons within the subdivision 2 being vacated. In approving the vacation of all or a portion of 3 a plat, the board of county commissioners may require that streets dedicated to the county in the original plat continue to 5 be dedicated to the county. The owners of lots on the vacated 7 portion of the plat may enclose in equal proportions the adjoining streets and alleys that are authorized to be 9 abandoned. C. 10 11

C. The approved statement declaring the vacation of a portion or all of a plat shall be filed in the office of the county clerk wherein the original plat is filed. The county clerk shall mark the original plat with the words "Vacated" or "Partially Vacated" and refer on the plat to the volume and page on which the statement of vacation is recorded.

or not the vacation will adversely affect the interests of

D. The rights of any utility existing prior to the vacation, total or partial, of any plat are not affected by the vacation of a plat."

Section 8. Section 47-6-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 8) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-8 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

- "47-6-8. [NEW MATERIAL] REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO SALE OR LEASE. --
- A. It is unlawful to sell or lease land from within a subdivision unless the subdivision plat is approved by the

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board of county commissioners and on file with the clerk of the county in which the subdivision is located. Where a subdivision lies within more than one county, the subdivision plat shall be approved by the board of county commissioners of each county in which the subdivision is located and on file with the county clerk of each county in which the subdivision is located.

- B. It is unlawful to sell or lease land in a typeone, type-two or type-four subdivision until the subdivider has furnished the board of county commissioners and filed with the county clerk a copy of his sales contracts, leases and any other document that will convey an interest in the subdivided land;
- C. Prior to the sale or lease of any parcel within a type-one, type-two or type-four subdivision by a subdivider in the ordinary course of business all corners of all parcels and blocks within a subdivision shall be permanently marked with metal stakes in the ground and a reference stake placed beside one corner of each parcel."

Section 9. Section 47-6-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 9, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-9 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

- "47-6-9. [NEW MATERIAL] SUBDIVISION REGULATION -- COUNTY
 AUTHORITY. --
- A. The board of county commissioners of each county shall regulate subdivisions within the county's boundaries. In regulating subdivisions, the board of county commissioners of

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each county shall adopt regulations setting forth the county's requirement for:

- (1) enough water for subdivision use;
- (2) water of an acceptable quality for subdivision use;
 - (3) liquid waste disposal;
 - (4) solid waste disposal;
 - (5) sufficient and adequate roads;
 - (6) terrain management;
 - (7) phased development;
- (8) specific information to be contained in a subdivider's disclosure statement in addition to that required in Section 47-6-17 NMSA 1978;
- (9) reasonable fees approximating the cost to the county of determining compliance with the Subdivision Act and county subdivision regulations while passing upon subdivision plats;
- $(10) \quad a \ \, \text{summary procedure as provided in}$ Sections 47-6-12 and 47-6-13 NMSA 1978; and
- (11) any other matter relating to subdivisions that the board of county commissioners feels is necessary to ensure that development is well planned, giving consideration to population density in the area.
- B. Subsection A of this section does not preempt the authority of any state agency to regulate or perform any

Section 10. Section 47-6-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 10, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-10 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-10. [NEW MATERIAL] COUNTY SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS--HEARINGS--APPEAL.--In promulgating subdivision regulations, the board of county commissioners shall adhere to the following procedures.

A. Prior to adopting, amending or repealing any regulation, the board of county commissioners shall consult with representatives of the state engineer's office, the department of environment, all soil and water conservation districts within the county and the state highway and transportation department about the subjects within their respective expertise for which the board of county commissioners is considering promulgating a regulation. In the process of the consultation, the representatives of each of the state agencies shall give consideration to the conditions peculiar to the county and shall submit written guidelines to the board of county commissioners for its consideration in formulating regulations. The guidelines:

- (1) shall be given consideration by the board of county commissioners in the formulation of the county's subdivision regulations;
 - (2) shall become a part of the record of any

hearing in which regulations are adopted, amended or repealed; and

- (3) may be in such detail as the agency involved desires.
- B. A regulation may not be adopted, amended or repealed until after a public hearing held by the board of county commissioners. Notice of the hearing shall be given at least thirty days prior to the hearing date and shall state:
 - (1) the subject of the regulation;
 - (2) the time and place of the hearing;
- $\hspace{1cm} \textbf{(3)} \hspace{3.5cm} \textbf{the manner in which interested persons may} \\ \textbf{present their views; and}$
- (4) the place and manner in which interested persons may secure copies of any proposed regulation. The board of county commissioners may impose a reasonable charge for the costs incurred in the reproducing and mailing of the proposed regulations.
- C. The notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.
- D. Reasonable effort shall be made to give notice to all persons who have made a written request to the board of county commissioners for advance notice of its hearings.
- E. The board of county commissioners shall give the state engineer, the department of environment, the state highway and transportation department and the soil and water

conservation districts thirty days' notice of its regulation hearings.

- F. At the hearing, the board of county commissioners shall allow all interested persons reasonable opportunity to submit data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, and to examine witnesses testifying at the hearing. The board shall keep a complete record of the hearing proceedings.
- G. Representatives from the state engineer's office, the department of environment, the soil and water conservation districts within the county and the state highway and transportation department shall be present at the hearings when the proposed regulation relates to an issue that is within the agencies' respective area of expertise. Where a proposed regulation relates to an issue that is within the agencies' respective area of expertise, the representatives from the state agencies shall enter into the record of the hearing a written statement setting forth any comments that they might have, whether favorable or unfavorable, about the proposed county regulation. Oral statements may also be made by the state agencies' representatives.
- H. A regulation is not invalid because of the failure of a state agency to submit a guideline prior to the promulgation of the regulation or because the representative of a state agency required to appear at a public hearing on the regulation did not appear or did not make any comment for entry

in the hearing record. If a state agency does not submit guidelines, does not appear as required at a hearing or does not have any comment for the record at a hearing on the regulation, the county shall proceed as if the action required of the state agency had been taken.

- I. The board of county commissioners shall act on the proposed regulations at the regulation hearings or at a public meeting to be held within thirty days of the hearing on the proposed regulations. Upon adopting the regulations, the board of county commissioners shall include in the record a short statement setting forth the board's reasoning and the basis of the board's decision, including the facts and circumstances considered and the weight given to those facts and circumstances.
- J. Any person heard or represented at the hearing shall be given written notice of the board's action if the person makes a written request to the board for notice of its decision.
- K. A regulation, amendment or repeal is not effective until thirty days after its filing with the county clerk and the state records administrator.
- L. Any person who is or may be adversely affected by a regulation adopted by the board of county commissioners may appeal to the district court for relief. All appeals shall be upon the record made at the hearing and shall be taken to the

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district court within thirty days after filing regulations with the state records administrator.

M An appeal is perfected by filing a notice of appeal in the district court of the county in which the subdivision is located. The appellant shall certify in his notice of appeal that arrangements have been made with the board of county commissioners for preparation of a sufficient number of transcripts of the record of the hearing to support his appeal, including one copy that he shall furnish at his own expense to the board of county commissioners. A copy of the notice of appeal shall also be served upon the board of county commissioners.

- N. Upon appeal, the district court shall set aside the regulation only if it is found to be:
- (1) arbitrary, capricious or an abuse of discretion:
 - (2) not supported by substantial evidence; or
 - (3) otherwise not in accordance with law.
- 0. Any party to the action in district court may appeal to the court of appeals for further relief."

Section 11. Section 47-6-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 11, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-11 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-11. [NEW MATERIAL] SUBDIVISION APPROVAL--TYPE-ONE
AND TYPE-TWO SUBDIVISIONS.--

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	A.	Any	subdi vi d	er	havi ng	an	approved	type-one	or
type-two	subdi v	vi si c	n shall	fur	rni sh:				

- (1) water to fulfill the use of water proposed by the subdivider, if any, in his disclosure statement;
- (2) water of an acceptable quality for the use of water proposed by the subdivider in his disclosure statement;
- (3) liquid waste disposal facilities to fulfill the liquid waste provisions proposed by the subdivider in his disclosure statement:
- (4) solid waste disposal facilities to fulfill the solid waste provisions proposed by the subdivider in his disclosure statement;
 - (5) satisfactory roads; and
- (6) terrain management to fulfill the provisions for terrain management proposed by the subdivider in his disclosure statement.
- B. Prior to approving the plat for a type-one or type-two subdivision, the board of county commissioners of the county in which the subdivision is located shall:
- (1) determine whether the subdivider can fulfill the proposals contained in his disclosure statement; and
- (2) determine whether the subdivision will conform with the requirements of the Subdivision Act and with the county's subdivision regulations.
 - C. The board of county commissioners shall not

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approve the plat of any subdivision if the subdivider cannot reasonably demonstrate that he can fulfill the proposals contained in his disclosure statement or if the subdivider has not conformed with the Subdivision Act and the county's subdivision regulations.

- D. Any subdivider submitting a plat of a type-one or type-two subdivision for approval shall submit sufficient information to the board of county commissioners to permit the board to determine whether:
- (1) the subdivider can fulfill the proposals contained in his disclosure statement; and
- (2) the subdivider has conformed with the Subdivision Act and the county's subdivision regulations.
- E. In determining whether a subdivider can fulfill the proposals contained in his disclosure statement and in determining whether the subdivider's provisions for a type-one or type-two subdivision conform with county regulations, the board of county commissioners shall request opinions from:
 - (1) the state engineer to determine:
- (a) whether the subdivider can fulfill the proposals in his disclosure statement concerning water for the subdivision, excepting water quality; and
- (b) whether the subdivider's water proposals conform with county regulations;
 - (2) the department of environment to determine:

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the	proposals contained	din	hi s	di sc	closu	re s	stater	nent	for	l i qui	d
and	solid wastes:										

- (b) whether the water proposed is of an acceptable quality to conform with county regulations; and
- (c) whether the liquid and solid waste disposal proposals conform with county regulations;
- (3) the state highway and transportation department detailing the requirements of state highway access when the board of county commissioners determines this to be of importance; and
- (4) the soil and water conservation district to determine:
- (a) whether the subdivider can fulfill the proposals contained in his disclosure statement concerning terrain management; and
- (b) whether the subdivider's proposals for terrain management conform with county regulations.
- F. If, in the opinion of each appropriate state agency, a subdivider can fulfill the proposals contained in his disclosure statement concerning water, liquid and solid waste disposal and terrain management, and the subdivider has conformed with county regulations in his subdivision proposal, then the board of county commissioners shall weigh these factors in determining whether to approve the subdivision plat.

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- G. If in the opinion of the state engineer the subdivider's water proposals do not conform with county regulations for a type-one subdivision or, if the state engineer does not have sufficient information upon which to base an opinion, the subdivider shall be notified of this fact by the board of county commissioners and the procedure set out below shall be followed:
- (1) if the state engineer has rendered an adverse opinion, the board of county commissioners shall give the subdivider a copy of the opinion;
- (2) the subdivider shall be given forty-five days from the date of notification to submit additional information to the state engineer through the board of county commissioners:
- (3) if, within sixty days of notification to the subdivider, the state engineer does not change his opinion or issue a favorable opinion when one has been withheld because of insufficient information, the board of county commissioners shall not approve the subdivider's plat unless:
- (a) the subdivider requests the appointment of three qualified water scientists to be chosen by the water quality control commission and paid by the subdivider; and
- (b) a majority of the water scientists chosen do not agree with the state engineer's opinion that the

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subdivider's water proposals do not conform with county regulations; and

- (4) if a majority of the water scientists do not agree with the state engineer's opinion that the subdivider's water proposals do not conform with county regulations, then their opinions shall be submitted to the board of county commissioners, which may utilize the opinions in its final determination approving or disapproving the subdivision plat.
- If, in the opinion of the state engineer, the subdivider's water proposals do not conform with county regulations for a type-two subdivision or if the state engineer does not have sufficient information upon which to base an opinion, the subdivider shall be notified of this fact by the board of county commissioners and the procedures set out below shall be followed:
- if the state engineer has rendered an (1) adverse opinion, the board of county commissioners shall give the subdivider a copy of the opinion;
- the subdivider shall be given forty-five **(2)** days from the date of notification to submit more information to the state engineer through the board of county commissioners; and
- if, within sixty days of the date the subdivider was notified, the state engineer does not change his

opinion or issue a favorable opinion when one has been withheld because of insufficient information, the board of county commissioners shall hold a public hearing devoted solely to determining whether or not the subdivider's water proposals conform with county regulations.

- I. If, in the opinion of the appropriate state agency, a type-one or type-two subdivision proposal does not conform with county regulations for water of an acceptable quality, liquid and solid waste disposal, highway access and terrain management, or if the appropriate state agency does not have sufficient information upon which to base an opinion on any one of these subjects, the subdivider shall be notified of this fact by the board of county commissioners, and the procedure set out below shall be followed:
- (1) if the appropriate state agency has rendered an adverse opinion, the board of county commissioners shall give the subdivider a copy of the opinion;
- (2) the subdivider shall be given forty-five days from the date of notification to submit additional information to the state agency through the board of county commissioners; and
- (3) if, within sixty days of the date of notification to the subdivider, the state agency does not change its opinion, or issue a favorable opinion when it has withheld one because of insufficient information, the board of county

commissioners shall hold a public hearing devoted solely to determining whether the subdivider has conformed with the applicable county regulation concerning which the state agency has rendered an unfavorable opinion or withheld an opinion because of insufficient information."

Section 12. Section 47-6-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 14) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-14 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-14. [NEW MATERIAL] HEARINGS ON SUBDIVISION PLATS.-Whenever a hearing is required because of an adverse report from
a state agency that a subdivider's proposal does not meet a
specified county regulation or because a state agency has not
furnished an opinion due to insufficient information, the board
of county commissioners shall adhere to the following
requirements concerning the hearing:

A. notice of the hearing shall be given at least thirty days prior to the hearing date and shall state:

- (1) the subject of the hearing;
- (2) the time and place of the hearing;
- (3) the manner in which interested persons may present their views; and
- (4) where interested persons may secure copies of the adverse opinion and of the subdivider's proposal on the subject covered by the state agency's opinion or the opinion request. The board of county commissioners may impose a

reasonable charge for the costs incurred in reproducing and mailing the opinion and proposal to those persons requesting copies;

- B. the notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county;
- C. reasonable effort shall be made to give notice to all persons who have made a written request to the board of county commissioners for advance notice of its hearings. Notice shall also be given to the state agency that prepared the adverse report or withheld a report on the basis of insufficient information:
- D. at the hearing, the board of county commissioners shall allow all interested persons a reasonable opportunity to submit data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, and to examine witnesses testifying at the hearing; and
- E. the board of county commissioners shall approve or disapprove the subdivision plat within thirty days of the termination of the hearing at a public meeting of the board of county commissioners."

Section 13. Section 47-6-15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 15) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-15 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-15. [NEW MATERIAL] APPEALS. --

A. Any party who is or may be adversely affected by a decision of the board of county commissioners or its delegate

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in approving or disapproving a subdivision plat may appeal to the district court of the county in which the subdivision is located within thirty days of the date of the board's action.

- B. An appeal is perfected by filing a notice of appeal in the district court. A copy of the notice of appeal shall be served upon the board of county commissioners.
- C. Upon appeal, the district court shall set aside the action of the board of county commissioners or its delegate only if it is found to be:
- (1) arbitrary, capricious or an abuse of discretion:
 - (2) not supported by substantial evidence; or
 - (3) otherwise not in accordance with law.
- D. Any party to the action in district court may appeal to the court of appeals for further relief."

Section 14. Section 47-6-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 16) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-16 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-16. [NEW MATERIAL] SUCCEEDING SUBDIVISIONS.--Any proposed subdivision may be combined and upgraded for classification purposes by the board of county commissioners with a previous subdivision if the proposed subdivision includes either:

A. a part of a previous subdivision that has been approved in the preceding three-year period; or

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B. any unsubdivided land retained by a subdivider after creating a previous subdivision when the previous subdivision was approved in the preceding three-year period."

Section 15. Section 47-6-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 17) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-17 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-17. [NEW MATERIAL] DISCLOSURE. --

A. Prior to selling or leasing any land in a typeone, type-two or type-four subdivision, the subdivider shall
disclose in writing such information as the board of county
commissioners requires, by regulation, to permit the prospective
purchaser or lessee to make an informed decision about the
purchase or lease of the land.

- B. The disclosure statement for subdivisions with twenty-five or more parcels but fewer than one hundred parcels shall contain at least the following information:
 - (1) the name of the subdivision;
- (2) the name and address of the subdivider and the name and address of the person in charge of sales or leasing in New Mexico;
- (3) the size of the subdivision, both present and anticipated;
- (4) the size of the largest and smallest parcels offered for sale or lease within the subdivision and the proposed range of selling or leasing prices, including financing

1	terms;
2	(5) the distance from the nearest town to the
3	subdivision and the route over which this distance is computed;
4	(6) the name and address of the person who is
5	recorded as having legal and equitable title to the property
6	offered for sale or lease;
7	(7) a statement of the condition of title
8	including any encumbrances;
9	(8) a statement of all restrictions or
10	reservations of record that subject the subdivided land to any
11	unusual conditions affecting its use or occupancy;
12	(9) the name and address of the escrow agent,
13	if any;
14	(10) a statement as to availability and cost of
15	public utilities;
16	(11) a statement of the proposed use of water,
17	if any, within the subdivision;
18	(12) a statement describing the quality and
19	quantity of water for the proposed use, if any, of the
20	subdi vi si on;
21	(13) a description of the means of liquid waste
22	disposal for the proposed use of the subdivision;
23	(14) a description of the means of solid waste
24	disposal for the proposed use of the subdivision;
25	(15) a description of the means of water

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delivery, if any, within the subdivision;

- (16) the average depth to water within the subdivision if water is available only from subterranean sources and if water is contemplated for the proposed use of the subdivision;
- $(17) \quad a \ description \ of \ access \ to \ the \\ subdivision;$
- (18) a statement disclosing whether the roads within the subdivision have been accepted for maintenance by the county;
- (19) a description of the subdivider's provisions for terrain management;
- (20) a summary, approved by the issuing state agency, of the opinions, if any, whether favorable or adverse, provided by state agencies to the board of county commissioners concerning any one of the points listed above; and
- (21) such other information as the board of county commissioners may require.
- C. The disclosure statement for subdivisions with one hundred or more parcels shall contain all of the information required in Subsection B of this section as well as the following information:
- (1) a statement of any activities or conditions adjacent to or nearby the subdivision that would subject the subdivided land to any unusual conditions affecting its use or

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- (2) a description of all recreational facilities, actual and proposed, in the subdivision;
 - (3) a statement as to the availability of:
 - (a) fire protection;
 - (b) police protection;
- (c) public schools for the inhabitants of the subdivision, including a statement concerning the proximity of the nearest elementary and secondary schools;
 - (d) hospital facilities;
 - (e) shopping facilities; and
 - (f) public transportation; and
- (4) a statement setting forth the projected dates upon which any of the items mentioned in this section for which the subdivider has responsibility will be completed if they are not yet completed.
- D. The disclosure statement shall be in the form that the board of county commissioners, after consultation with the attorney general, may require by regulation. The form of disclosure statements, insofar as possible, shall be uniform for all counties.
- E. Any subdivider who has satisfied the disclosure requirement of the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act may submit his approved statement of record in lieu of the disclosure statement required by the Subdivision Act. However,

1	any information required in the Subdivision Act and not covered
2	in the subdivider's statement of record shall be attached to the
	statement of record.
4	F. It is unlawful to sell or lease land in a type-
5	one, type-two or type-four subdivision until:
6	(1) the required disclosure statement has been

- (1) the required disclosure statement has been filed with the county clerk, the board of county commissioners and the attorney general's office; and
- (2) the prospective purchaser or lessee has been given a copy of the disclosure statement prior to the time of purchase or lease."

Section 16. Section 47-6-18 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 18) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-18 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-18. [NEW MATERIAL] ADVERTISING STANDARDS. --

- A. Brochures, disclosure statements, publications and advertising of any form relating to subdivided land shall:
- (1) not misrepresent or contain false or misleading statements of fact;
- (2) not describe deeds, title insurance or other items included in a transaction as "free" and shall not state that any parcel is "free" or given as an "award" or "prize" if any consideration is required for any reason;
- (3) not describe parcels available for "closing costs only" or similar terms unless all such costs are

accurately and completely itemized or when additional parcels must be purchased at a higher price;

- (4) not include an asterisk or other reference symbol as a means of contradicting or substantially changing any statement:
- (5) if subdivision illustrations are used, accurately portray the subdivision in its present state, and if illustrations are used portraying points of interest outside the subdivision, state the actual road miles from the subdivision;
- (6) not contain artists' conceptions of the subdivision or any facilities within it unless clearly described as such and shall not contain maps unless accurately drawn to scale with the scale indicated;
- (7) not contain references to any facilities, points of interest or municipalities located outside the subdivision unless the distances from the subdivision are stated in the advertisement in actual road miles; and
- (8) refer to where the subdivider's disclosure statement may be obtained if a disclosure statement is required for the subdivision.
- B. Copies of all brochures, publications and advertising relating to subdivided land shall be filed with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the subdivision is located and with the attorney general within fifteen days after initial use by the subdivider."

Section 17. Section 47-6-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 19, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-19 NMSA 1978 to read:

"47-6-19. [NEW MATERIAL] ROAD DEVELOPMENT. --

- A. Roads within a subdivision shall be constructed only on a schedule approved by the board of county commissioners. In approving or disapproving a subdivider's road construction schedule, the board of county commissioners shall consider:
 - (1) the proposed use of the subdivision;
- (2) the period of time before the roads will receive substantial use:
- (3) the period of time before construction of homes will commence on the portion of the subdivision serviced by the road;
- $\qquad \qquad \textbf{(4)} \quad \text{the county regulations governing phased} \\ \text{development; and}$
- (5) the needs of prospective purchasers and lessees in viewing the land within the subdivision.
- B. All proposed roads shall conform to minimum county safety standards.
- C. The board of county commissioners shall not approve the grading or construction of roads unless and until the subdivider can reasonably demonstrate that the roads to be constructed will receive use and that the roads are required to

provide access to parcels or improvements within twenty-four months from the date of construction of the road.

D. It is unlawful for the subdivider to grade or otherwise commence construction of roads unless the construction conforms to the schedule of road development approved by the board of county commissioners."

Section 18. Section 47-6-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 20) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-20 NMSA 1978 to read:

"47-6-20. [NEW MATERIAL] STATE AGENCIES REQUIRED TO PROVIDE COUNTIES WITH INFORMATION. --

A. Any state agency receiving a request from the board of county commissioners for an opinion on water, water quality, liquid or solid waste disposal adequacy, terrain management or highway access shall furnish the board with the requested opinion. The board of county commissioners shall furnish the appropriate state agency with all relevant information that the board has received from the subdivider on the subject for which the board is seeking an opinion. If the state agency does not have sufficient information upon which to base an opinion, the state agency shall notify the board of this fact.

B. All opinion requests mailed by the board of county commissioners shall be by certified mail "return receipt requested". Boards of county commissioners delivering opinion

requests shall obtain receipts showing the day the opinion request was received by the particular state agency."

Section 19. Section 47-6-21 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 21) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-21 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-21. [NEW MATERIAL] INFORMATION REPORTS.--In determining whether the subdivider can fulfill the proposals contained in his disclosure statement and in determining whether the subdivision will conform with county regulations, the appropriate state agency may request, through the board of county commissioners, that the subdivider submit such information as the agency may feel necessary to permit it to make that determination."

Section 20. Section 47-6-22 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 22, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-22 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-22. [<u>NEW MATERIAL</u>] TIME LIMIT ON ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION. - -

A. All opinions required of state agencies shall be furnished to the board of county commissioners within sixty days after the state agencies receive the written request and accompanying information from the board of county commissioners. If the board of county commissioners does not receive a requested opinion within the sixty-day period, the board shall proceed in accordance with its own best judgment concerning the

subject of the opinion request. The failure of a state agency to provide an opinion when requested by the board of county commissioners does not indicate that the subdivider's provisions concerning the subject of the opinion request were unacceptable or inadequate.

- B. Subdivision plats submitted to the board of county commissioners for approval shall be approved or disapproved at a public meeting of the board or by summary procedure where appropriate:
- (1) within forty-five days of the date the final subdivision plat is submitted if the plat is for a typethree, type-four or type-five subdivision;
- (2) within one hundred eighty days of the date the final subdivision plat is submitted, if the plat is for a type-one or a type-two subdivision when a public hearing is not required on the subdivision; and
- (3) within thirty days after the conclusion of any public hearing on a type-one or type-two subdivision when the hearing is caused by an adverse opinion from a state agency on the subdivision.
- C. Except as provided in Subsection G of Section 47-6-11 NMSA 1978, if the board of county commissioners does not act upon the plat within the required period of time, the plat is deemed to be approved thirty days after the subdivider gives the attorney general written notice of the board of county

commissioners' failure to act. If the board of county commissioners fails to approve or reject the final plat within the thirty days, after notice to the attorney general, upon demand the board of county commissioners shall issue a certificate stating that the plat has been approved."

Section 21. Section 47-6-23 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 23) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-23 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-23. [NEW MATERIAL] RIGHT OF INSPECTION-RESCISSION.--If the purchaser or lessee of subdivided land has not inspected his parcel prior to the time of purchase or lease, the purchase or lease agreement shall contain a provision giving the purchaser or lessee six months within which to personally inspect his parcel. After making the personal inspection within the six-month period, the purchaser shall have the right to rescind the purchase or lease agreement and receive a refund of all funds paid on the transaction to the seller or lessor when merchantable title is revested in the seller or lessor. Notice of such rescission to the seller shall be made in writing and shall be given within three days of the date of personal inspection."

Section 22. Section 47-6-25 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 25) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-25 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-25. [NEW MATERIAL] SUSPENSION OF RIGHT OF SALE. --

The board of county commissioners may suspend or revoke approval of a plat as to the unsold or unleased portions of a subdivider's plat if the subdivider does not meet the schedule of compliance approved by the board."

Section 23. Section 47-6-25.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1981, Chapter 148, Section 7) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-25 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-25. 1. [NEW MATERIAL] ATTORNEY GENERAL--DISTRICT
ATTORNEYS--INVESTIGATION. --

A. If the attorney general or a district attorney has reasonable cause to believe that a person has information or may be in possession, custody or control of any document or other tangible object relevant to a civil investigation for violation of the Subdivision Act, the attorney general or the district attorney, or both, may before bringing any action apply to the district court of Santa Fe county, or any county where the district attorney has his office, for approval of a civil investigative demand, demanding, in writing, such person to appear and be examined under oath, to answer written interrogatories under oath or to produce the document or object for inspection and copying. The demand shall:

(1) be served upon the person in the manner required for service of process in this state or, if the person cannot be found or does not reside or maintain a principal place of business within this state, in the manner required for

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service of process in the state in which the person resides, maintains a principal place of business or can be found;

- (2) describe the nature of the conduct under investigation;
- (3) describe the class of documents or objects with sufficient definiteness to permit it to be fairly identified if the production of documents or objects is requested;
- (4) contain a copy of the written interrogatories if answers to written interrogatories are sought;
- (5) prescribe a reasonable time at which the person shall appear to testify or within which the document or object must be produced;
- (6) specify a place for the taking of testimony or for production of the document or object and designate a person who may be an authorized employee of the attorney general or district attorney to be custodian of the document or object; and
- of this section. No demand to produce a document or object for inspection and copying shall contain any requirement that would be unreasonable or improper if contained in a subpoena duces tecum issued in a civil proceeding by a district court of this state. The district court shall approve the demand if it finds

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that the attorney general or district attorney has reasonable cause to believe that a person has information or may be in possession, custody or control of any document or other tangible object relevant to a civil investigation for violation of the Subdivision Act and that the demand is proper in form. A demand shall not be issued without approval of the district court.

If a person fails to comply with the written demand served upon him under the provisions of Subsection A of this section, the attorney general or district attorney may file a petition for an order to enforce the demand in the district court of the county in which the person resides or in which he maintains a principal place of business within this state or of the county of Santa Fe if the person neither resides nor has a principal place of business in this state. Notice of hearing on the petition and a copy of the petition shall be served upon the person, who may appear in opposition to the petition. If the court finds that the demand is proper in form and there is reasonable cause to believe that the person has information or may be in possession, custody or control of any document or other tangible object relevant to a civil investigation for violation of the Subdivision Act, the court shall order the person to comply with the demand, subject to any modification that the court may prescribe. Upon motion by the person and for good cause shown, the court may make any further protective order in the proceedings that justice requires.

- C. Prior to the filing of an action under the provisions of the Subdivision Act for the violation under investigation, any testimony taken or material produced under this section shall be kept confidential by the attorney general or district attorney unless confidentiality is waived by the person being investigated and the person who has testified, answered interrogatories or produced material, or unless disclosure is authorized by the court. Any testimony taken or material produced under this section shall be open to inspection only to the attorney general or district attorney and the person upon whom the demand for which inspection is sought has been served, unless otherwise ordered by the court.
- D. Any person compelled to appear under this section and required to testify under oath may be accompanied, represented and advised by counsel. An objection may properly be made, received and entered upon the record when it is claimed that the person is entitled to refuse to answer the question on grounds of any constitutional or other legal right or privilege."

Section 24. Section 47-6-26 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 26, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-26 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-26. [NEW MATERIAL] INJUNCTIVE RELIEF--MANDAMUS.-The board of county commissioners, the district attorney or the attorney general may apply to the district court to have a

subdivider enjoined from selling or leasing land within the affected subdivision until he complies with the terms of Sections 47-5-9 and 47-6-1 through 47-6-28 NMSA 1978. In addition, the board of county commissioners, the district attorney or the attorney general may seek injunctive relief or bring mandamus to compel compliance with the provisions of this act. However, nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting any common-law right of any person in any court relating to subdivisions."

Section 25. Section 47-6-27 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 348, Section 27, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-27 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-27. [NEW MATERIAL] CRIMINAL PENALTIES. --

A. Any person who sells or leases land that is a part of a subdivision before the plat has been approved and recorded or during a period in which the subdivider's right to sell has been suspended is guilty of a misdemeanor, which shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each parcel for which a violation occurred.

- B. Any person who publishes or disseminates any material in violation of the Subdivision Act is guilty of a misdemeanor, which shall be punishable by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or by imprisonment for not more than one year or both.
 - C. Any person who violates any other provision of

the Subdivision Act is guilty of a misdemeanor, which shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation of the Subdivision Act.

D. A conviction based upon any violation of the Subdivision Act requires proof of and a finding of general criminal intent.

Section 26. Section 47-6-27.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1981, Chapter 148, Section 9) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-27.1 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-27. 1. [NEW MATERIAL] PRIVATE REMEDIES. --

A. Any transaction involving the sale or lease of subdivided land in a subdivision subject to the Subdivision Act, which has not been approved by the board of county commissioners, in violation of that act shall be voidable at the option of the purchaser or lessee. The purchaser or lessee may recover restitution of all money, property or other things paid to or received by the seller or lessor on his behalf. The action shall be brought within one year after actual discovery by the purchaser or lessee of lack of approval but in no event after three years from the signing of the purchase or lease agreement.

B. Any purchaser or lessee of subdivided land who suffers any loss of money or property, real or personal, as a result of any material violation of the Subdivision Act or any county regulations adopted under that act may bring an action to

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recover either restitution of all money, property or other things paid to or received by the seller or lessor on his behalf The action shall be brought within three or actual damages. years of the signing of the purchase or lease agreement.

- Any purchaser or lessee of subdivided land who has purchased or leased land within an approved subdivision may bring an action in district court to compel specific performance of any proposed improvement set forth in a subdivider's disclosure statement or in any document obligating the person signing the document to purchase or lease land as a lessee or set forth in any advertising or promotional materials relating to the subdivided land. The action shall be brought within three years after the signing of the purchase or lease agreement.
- D. Costs shall be allowed to the prevailing party unless the court otherwise directs. The court, in its discretion, may award reasonable attorney fees to the prevailing party.
- Ε. The remedies provided in this section are in addition to remedies otherwise available under common law or other statutes of this state.
- F. This section shall apply to the purchase or lease of subdivided land in approved or unapproved subdivisions that are entered into after the effective date of this section."

Section 27. Section 47-6-29 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973,

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Chapter 348, Section 41, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 47-6-29 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"47-6-29. [NEW MATERIAL] JURISDICTION. -- Nothing in the Subdivision Act as currently in force or as hereafter amended shall be construed as limiting the municipal extraterritorial subdivision and platting jurisdiction provided for in Sections 3-20-1 through 3-20-15 NMSA 1978."

REPEAL. -- Sections 47-6-11.1, 47-6-11.2, Section 28. 47-6-11.3 and Section 47-6-27.2 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 212, Sections 12, 13, 14 and 25) are repealed.

Section 29. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1997.

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