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HOUSE BILL 335

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,  
2000**

INTRODUCED BY  
Stevan Pearce

AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; ESTABLISHING A RURAL  
AFFAIRS BUREAU IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT; MAKING  
AN APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. A new section of the Economic Development  
Department Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] RURAL AFFAIRS BUREAU--ESTABLISHED--  
PURPOSE.--

A. The "rural affairs bureau" is established in  
the economic development division of the economic development  
department.

B. The purpose of the rural affairs bureau is to  
provide:

(1) comprehensive information on local,  
state and federal agricultural and rural economic development

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1 programs to agricultural producers and businesses, rural  
2 communities and local and regional economic development  
3 organizations; and

4 (2) assistance to agricultural producers and  
5 businesses, rural communities and local and regional economic  
6 development organizations in applying for and coordinating  
7 rural economic development programs."

8 Section 2. A new section of the Economic Development  
9 Department Act is enacted to read:

10 "[NEW MATERIAL] RURAL AFFAIRS BUREAU--DUTIES.--The rural  
11 affairs bureau shall:

12 A. develop and maintain a comprehensive statewide  
13 rural economic development activity information database and  
14 referral service;

15 B. establish a mechanism for advertising the  
16 existence of the office and its referral service;

17 C. provide professional assistance and information  
18 regarding rural economic development activity and programs;

19 D. establish a reporting procedure to monitor the  
20 success of the referral service;

21 E. foster, coordinate and support the efforts of  
22 individuals, organizations and other departments or state  
23 agencies involved in rural economic development activities,  
24 programs or projects;

25 F. coordinate work with the regional councils of  
the planning and development districts created in the  
Planning District Act and supervise the work of any

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development specialists assigned to those regions; and  
G. develop a budget and hire staff as needed to  
operate the rural affairs bureau."

Section 3. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred thousand dollars  
(\$100,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
economic development department for expenditure in fiscal  
year 2001 for the purpose of establishing and operating the  
rural affairs bureau in the economic development division of  
the economic development department. Any unexpended or  
unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2001  
shall revert to the general fund.