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SENATE BILL 148

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Richard M. Romero

AN ACT

**RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION; CREATING THE FIRE PLANNING TASK
FORCE TO WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN DEVELOPING MINIMUM
STANDARDS FOR BUILDING CODES AND ORDINANCES THAT WILL REDUCE
THE THREAT OF FOREST FIRES.**

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

Section 1. FIRE PLANNING TASK FORCE--DUTIES. --

**A. The "fire planning task force" is created. The
task force shall consist of nine members as follows:**

- (1) the state fire marshal;**
- (2) the director of the local government
division of the department of finance and administration;**
- (3) a representative of the United States
forest service, appointed by the governor, after consulting
with the forest service;**

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1 (4) a member of a local fire department,
2 appointed by the governor;

3 (5) a representative of the New Mexico
4 association of counties;

5 (6) a representative of the New Mexico
6 municipal league;

7 (7) the director of the construction
8 industries division of the regulation and licensing department;

9 (8) the state forester; and

10 (9) a representative of an Indian nation,
11 tribe or pueblo, appointed by the governor.

12 B. The chair of the task force shall be elected by
13 the task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the
14 chair.

15 C. The public members of the task force shall
16 receive per diem and mileage pursuant to the Per Diem and
17 Mileage Act.

18 D. The forestry division of the energy, minerals
19 and natural resources department, with assistance from the
20 department of finance and administration, shall provide staff
21 for the task force.

22 E. The task force shall:

23 (1) identify those areas within the state
24 that, because of the interface between forests and urban
25 buildings, are the most vulnerable to danger from forest fires;

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1 (2) develop standards for building codes and
2 ordinances that will reduce the threat of forest fires. In
3 developing the standards, the task force shall:

4 (a) recognize the distinction between
5 altering existing situations and establishing standards for new
6 construction;

7 (b) consider the benefits of thinning
8 overgrown forests, conducting controlled burns, clearing spaces
9 around homes and other structures, using noncombustible roofing
10 materials and double-pane windows and taking other fire
11 suppression or prevention measures;

12 (c) consider the impact of fire
13 mitigation measures on wildlife; and

14 (d) solicit comments from affected
15 landowners, land users and local governments;

16 (3) work with communities in the affected
17 areas in adopting and implementing the building codes and
18 ordinances; and

19 (4) report its progress and any
20 recommendations for legislation to the governor and the
21 legislature by December 15 of each year.