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HOUSE BILL 511

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Rhonda S. King

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OBSERVANCE OF NEW MEXICO'S ONE HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD; CREATING A NEW MEXICO CENTENNIAL
COMMISSION; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; CREATING A FUND;
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS.

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

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"New Mexico Centennial Celebration Act".

Section 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.--

A. The legislature finds that:

(1) for over four hundred years, New Mexico
has retained a political identity; starting as a Spanish
colony, New Mexico became a territory of the Republic of
Mexico, when Mexico won independence from Spain, and then
became a territory of the United States from 1850 until January

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1 6, 1912, when it became the forty-seventh state in the union;

2 (2) the achievement of statehood was a long
3 and arduous process, but finally New Mexico was admitted to the
4 union upon proclamation of President William Howard Taft;

5 (3) a greater awareness of New Mexico's unique
6 political, social and historical heritage can serve to unify
7 the state, increase citizen pride and focus attention on the
8 state's distinctive qualities that make it so attractive to
9 residents, businesses and tourists; and

10 (4) the centennial provides a unique occasion
11 for statewide celebration and opportunities for greater
12 awareness, both within and without the state, of New Mexico's
13 history and culture and its significant role in the future of
14 the United States.

15 B. The purpose of the New Mexico Centennial
16 Celebration Act is to create a centennial commission to plan,
17 promote and coordinate state and local observances of the one
18 hundredth anniversary of statehood.

19 Section 3. COMMISSION CREATED--MEMBERSHIP--STAFF.--

20 A. The "New Mexico centennial commission" is
21 created. The commission is composed of thirteen members
22 appointed by the governor from different geographic areas of
23 the state, giving due regard to the cultural diversity of the
24 state. The secretaries of cultural affairs, tourism and Indian
25 affairs and the state historian shall serve as ex-officio,

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1 nonvoting members of the commission. Members shall serve from
2 the date of their appointment until December 31, 2012.
3 Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the governor. The
4 governor shall appoint the chair, and the commission may
5 appoint other officers as it deems necessary. Public members
6 are entitled to receive per diem and mileage as provided in the
7 Per Diem and Mileage Act, but shall receive no other
8 compensation, perquisite or allowance.

9 B. Staff for the commission shall be provided by
10 the cultural affairs department.

11 Section 4. COMMISSION POWERS AND DUTIES--CULTURAL AFFAIRS
12 DEPARTMENT DUTIES.--

13 A. The New Mexico centennial commission may:

14 (1) designate advisory and honorary boards or
15 special committees to assist it in planning, developing and
16 coordinating specific activities of the centennial;

17 (2) adopt an official flag, seal and other
18 emblems for the celebration of New Mexico's centennial and
19 copyright them in the name of the state;

20 (3) accept donations, gifts, grants and other
21 things of value, including real or personal property and
22 personal services; and

23 (4) do other things consistent with the
24 purpose of the New Mexico Centennial Celebration Act to carry
25 out the provisions of that act.

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1 B. The commission shall plan, encourage, develop
2 and coordinate state and local observances of New Mexico's
3 centennial held between January and December 2012.

4 C. The cultural affairs department shall serve as
5 fiscal agent for the commission and may enter into contracts to
6 carry out the powers and duties of the commission.

7 Section 5. COOPERATION.--

8 A. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the New
9 Mexico centennial commission shall consult, cooperate with and
10 seek advice from appropriate state departments and agencies,
11 public schools, post-secondary educational institutions, local
12 public bodies, learned societies and historical, patriotic,
13 philanthropic, civic, professional and related organizations.
14 State departments and agencies shall cooperate with the
15 commission in planning, encouraging, developing and
16 coordinating appropriate commemorative activities.

17 B. The president of each state university shall
18 cooperate with the commission, especially in the encouragement,
19 coordination and publicity of scholarly works and presentations
20 on the history, culture, political thought and commemoration of
21 New Mexico and the one hundredth anniversary of statehood.

22 C. The commission shall determine whether there are
23 any sites within the state that are appropriate for
24 preservation or development in commemoration of the one
25 hundredth anniversary of statehood in a manner to ensure that

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1 fitting observances and exhibits may be held at the sites
2 during the centennial celebration year.

3 Section 6. PROPERTY ACQUIRED.--

4 A. Unless otherwise specified in the acquisition,
5 any personal property acquired by the New Mexico centennial
6 commission shall be deposited for preservation with the state
7 library or records center or otherwise disposed of in
8 consultation with appropriate state agencies.

9 B. Unless otherwise specified in the acquisition,
10 any real property acquired by the commission shall be accepted
11 in the name of the state and shall be held by the cultural
12 affairs department or the property control division of the
13 general services department, as appropriate.

14 Section 7. FUND CREATED.--The "New Mexico centennial
15 fund" is created in the state treasury. All money received by
16 the New Mexico centennial commission and income from investment
17 of the fund shall be deposited in the fund. Money in the fund
18 shall not revert to the general fund until January 1, 2013 or
19 until all encumbrances related to the New Mexico centennial
20 celebration and payable from the fund have been paid, whichever
21 is later. The fund shall be administered by the cultural
22 affairs department, and money in the fund is appropriated to
23 the department to pay expenses approved by the New Mexico
24 centennial commission to carry out the purposes of the New
25 Mexico Centennial Celebration Act. Expenditures from the fund

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1 shall be by warrant of the secretary of finance and
2 administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of
3 cultural affairs or the secretary's authorized representative.

4 Section 8. REPORT.--

5 A. The New Mexico centennial commission shall
6 submit to the governor a report incorporating its specific
7 recommendations for the ceremonial, educational and scholastic
8 commemoration of the New Mexico centennial by July 1, 2008.

9 The report shall recommend activities, such as:

10 (1) the production, publication and
11 distribution of books, pamphlets, films and other educational
12 materials about New Mexico and its history, culture, arts,
13 society and politics;

14 (2) bibliographical and documentary projects
15 and publications;

16 (3) conferences, convocations, lectures,
17 seminars and other programs;

18 (4) the development of special projects for
19 libraries, museums, state parks and historic sites, including
20 special exhibits and traveling exhibits;

21 (5) ceremonies and celebrations commemorating
22 specific and general events;

23 (6) the involvement of state agencies;
24 political subdivisions; public schools; public post-secondary
25 educational institutions; and cultural, artistic, historical

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1 and other organizations; and

2 (7) any other recommended activities.

3 B. The report shall include recommendations for the
4 allocation of financial and administrative responsibility among
5 public and private authorities, a list of organizations
6 recommended for participation by the commission and proposals
7 for legislation or administrative action necessary to carry out
8 the recommendations of the commission.

9 Section 9. APPROPRIATION.--

10 A. Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) is
11 appropriated from the general fund to the New Mexico centennial
12 fund for expenditure in fiscal years 2007 and subsequent fiscal
13 years for:

14 (1) expenses of the New Mexico centennial
15 commission, including per diem and mileage expenses and salary
16 and benefits for a staff person assigned to the commission from
17 the cultural affairs department;

18 (2) development of a web site for centennial-
19 related activities; and

20 (3) other centennial-related expenses.

21 B. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining
22 at the end of a fiscal year shall revert to the general fund as
23 provided in Section 7 of the New Mexico Centennial Celebration
24 Act.

25 Section 10. DELAYED REPEAL.--This act is repealed

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effective January 1, 2013.