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HOUSE BILL 40

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024**

INTRODUCED BY

Pamelya Herndon and Dayan Hochman-Vigil

FOR THE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE REVENUE SUBCOMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION; CREATING AN INTRASTATE AIRLINE TASK FORCE; PROVIDING DUTIES; REQUIRING A FINAL REPORT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

**SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--INTRASTATE AIRLINE TASK FORCE--CREATED--DUTIES--FINAL REPORT.--**

A. The "intrastate airline task force" is created and consists of:

(1) one senator appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, to serve as co-chairs and convene the meetings of the task force;

(2) the secretary of transportation or the

1 secretary's designee;

2 (3) the secretary of tourism or the  
3 secretary's designee;

4 (4) the secretary of economic development or  
5 the secretary's designee;

6 (5) the secretary of Indian affairs or the  
7 secretary's designee;

8 (6) the director of the office on African  
9 American affairs or the director's designee;

10 (7) the chief economist of the legislative  
11 finance committee or the chief economist's designee;

12 (8) the senior economist of the economic  
13 development department or the senior economist's designee;

14 (9) the chief executive officers of the  
15 chambers of commerce of Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Gallup, Hobbs  
16 and Clovis or the chief executive officers' designees; and

17 (10) five public members, one each from  
18 Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Gallup, Hobbs and Clovis, who each  
19 have at least ten years of experience related to aviation,  
20 airlines, transportation or economics, to be appointed by the  
21 president pro tempore of the senate, speaker of the house of  
22 representatives, minority floor leader of the senate and  
23 minority floor leader of the house of representatives.

24 B. Appointments to the intrastate airline task  
25 force shall be made by May 16, 2024 and shall function from the

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1 date of appointment until December 31, 2024. The task force  
2 shall meet at the call of a co-chair or at the request of one-  
3 third of its membership, and as necessary to carry out its  
4 duties, but not less than once and no more than three times per  
5 month. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum for the  
6 transaction of business, and the support of a majority of the  
7 members is required for adoption of any action.

8 C. The intrastate airline task force shall study  
9 and provide recommendations on establishing an intrastate  
10 airline transportation system to provide regular and consistent  
11 flights between the cities of Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Hobbs,  
12 Clovis and Gallup, including:

13 (1) the projected demand over the next fifteen  
14 years, considering population density and trends, existing  
15 transportation options and business and tourism activity;

16 (2) the necessary and optimal routes, flight  
17 frequency, number of aircraft and types of aircraft to meet  
18 projected demand;

19 (3) the projected profitability of an airline  
20 that would service the flights;

21 (4) the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities  
22 and benefits of the airline being privately owned, publicly  
23 owned or operated via a public-private partnership;

24 (5) necessary new infrastructure and  
25 modifications to existing infrastructure;

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1 (6) the costs, revenue and benefits to the  
2 state for both a privately and publicly owned airline;

3 (7) federal law regulations with which an  
4 intrastate airline transportation system would need to comply;  
5 and

6 (8) any other actions required by the state to  
7 facilitate the success of the intrastate airline transportation  
8 system, including policy or legislative changes and potential  
9 incentives to attract a private business to operate it.

10 D. The intrastate airline task force shall by  
11 December 1, 2024 report its findings, recommendations and any  
12 proposed legislation to the legislative finance committee, the  
13 interim committee that studies economic and rural development  
14 and policy, the interim committee that studies transportation  
15 and any other appropriate legislative interim committees.

16 E. The intrastate airline task force may contract  
17 with economists, consultants and other experts to assist the  
18 task force in carrying out the provisions of this section.

19 F. Members of the intrastate airline task force are  
20 entitled to receive per diem and mileage as provided in the Per  
21 Diem and Mileage Act and shall receive no other compensation,  
22 perquisite or allowance.

23 G. The economic development department shall  
24 provide the necessary staff and administrative support to the  
25 intrastate airline task force.

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SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the economic development department for expenditure in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for the purposes of the intrastate airline task force. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2025 shall revert to the general fund.