

The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

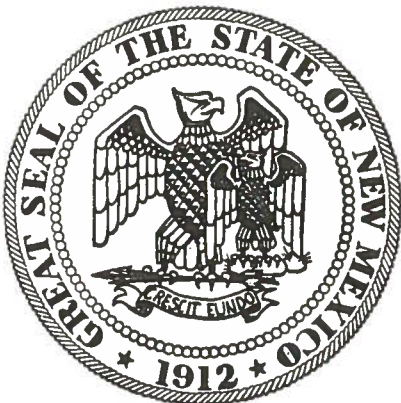
HOUSE MEMORIAL 3

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Introduced by  
REPRESENTATIVE MIMI STEWART

AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



1 A MEMORIAL

2 SUPPORTING THE IDEA THAT EVERY NEW MEXICO CHILD SHOULD HAVE  
3 AMPLE OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES USING EXISTING RESOURCES.

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5 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a state rich in diverse natural  
6 resources and wildlife as well as outstanding natural areas  
7 that provide residents with a wide variety of outdoor  
8 recreation opportunities; and

9 WHEREAS, a growing body of research and literature  
10 indicates that being in nature is increasingly important for  
11 children, especially for children raised in highly  
12 industrialized urban environments; and

13 WHEREAS, outdoor activity in natural environments has  
14 the potential to improve children's mental health and physical  
15 well-being or, in the words of one student, "we need to get  
16 more air and oxygen, which fuels our bodies and helps us  
17 think"; and

18 WHEREAS, an increase in outdoor school activities can  
19 increase student attendance, focus, enthusiasm for school and  
20 academic performance and reduce negative behaviors; and

21 WHEREAS, outdoor activities can reduce obesity and  
22 diabetes in New Mexico where one-third of our children are  
23 overweight and where diabetes rates jumped forty percent from  
24 1990 through 2000; and

25 WHEREAS, teens and young adults have one of the highest

1 rates of unemployment and would benefit from volunteer and  
2 other job training opportunities in outdoor and natural  
3 resources fields; and

4 WHEREAS, taking care of natural resources and forming  
5 good stewardship habits at an early age are important aspects  
6 of learning to care for the world around us and to work for  
7 positive change; and

8 WHEREAS, the wonder and joy of discovery in nature is a  
9 fundamental childhood experience and promotes mental and  
10 physical health, academic achievement, future economic  
11 success, civic engagement and environmental literacy;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
14 that it support the idea that every New Mexico child should  
15 have the opportunity to:

- 16 A. play outside and explore freely;
- 17 B. watch wildlife in the outdoors;
- 18 C. wade in a river, creek, lake or pond;
- 19 D. catch a fish and hunt for food;
- 20 E. camp out under the stars;
- 21 F. plant a seed and visit farms and ranches;
- 22 G. hike a trail;
- 23 H. explore public parks, open spaces, nature  
24 centers and wildlife sanctuaries;
- 25 I. actively care for land, water and wildlife;

1 J. dig in the dirt and learn about the world from  
2 the ground up; and

3 K. use their imaginations to draw, dance, sing and  
4 play outdoors; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and  
6 families department, the state parks division of the energy,  
7 minerals and natural resources department, the department of  
8 game and fish, the public education department, the state land  
9 office, the tourism department and the department of health be  
10 encouraged to develop and advertise outdoor programs for  
11 children, including opportunities on New Mexico state-owned  
12 lands, activities in and around schools such as outdoor  
13 gardening and increased physical education and outdoor and  
14 natural resource job and skills training; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the governor, the children, youth and families  
17 department, the state parks division of the energy, minerals  
18 and natural resources department, the department of game and  
19 fish, the public education department, the state land office,  
20 the tourism department and the department of health.

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BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES