



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

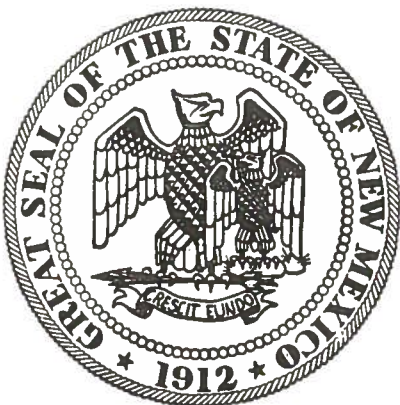
HOUSE MEMORIAL 72

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE NICK L. SALAZAR

REPRESENTATIVE DEBBIE A. RODELLA

REPRESENTATIVE BEN LUJAN



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A
3 PROPERTY STATUS, PROGRAM AND USE AUDIT OF THE LOS LUCEROS
4 PROPERTY IN RIO ARRIBA COUNTY.

5
6 WHEREAS, Los Luceros is a one-hundred-thirty-acre
7 property of great historic and natural value, located in the
8 Espanola Valley near Alcalde, which was purchased by the state
9 to enable greater access to the property by the public; and

10 WHEREAS, the state gained ownership of Los Luceros in
11 2008 with the aim of providing public access to the historic
12 property, developing a retreat center for workshops,
13 conducting seminars connected to New Mexico's film industry
14 and providing a site for crop testing and environmental
15 studies programming; and

16 WHEREAS, the estate was first owned by Luis Maria Ortiz,
17 a seventh-generation descendant of colonists who arrived with
18 Don Diego de Vargas, for whom the main house, or casa grande,
19 was constructed; and

20 WHEREAS, Mary Cabot Wheelwright, the founder of the
21 museum that now bears her name, purchased the property in 1923
22 and lived there until her death in 1958; and

23 WHEREAS, Mary Wheelwright's heirs invested in a major
24 renovation of the property, which was completed in 2001; and

25 WHEREAS, the structures on the grounds include the casa

1 grande, which at one time acted as the county seat; an old
2 jail; the Capilla de la Sagrada Familia chapel; a new visitors
3 center and other facilities with historic significance; and

4 WHEREAS, the grounds also include orchards, a bosque and
5 irrigated pastures, all of which provide habitat for at least
6 one hundred sixty-two species of birds, both migratory and
7 permanent residents, as well as many species of mammals and
8 reptiles; and

9 WHEREAS, Los Luceros has been listed on the national
10 register of historic places since 1983; and

11 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2010, money was appropriated to
12 the cultural affairs department by the legislature to complete
13 a master plan for the use of Los Luceros; and

14 WHEREAS, the property is currently closed and
15 unattended, possibly putting in jeopardy the condition of the
16 structures and plantings on the property, as well as its
17 listing on the national register of historic places; and

18 WHEREAS, with the property closed, public access to the
19 property is not possible;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural
22 affairs department be requested to conduct a property status,
23 program and use audit of the Los Luceros estate to determine
24 if the property is being maintained and used so as to maximize
25 the property's value to the state; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of cultural
2 affairs be requested to review the master plan for Los Luceros
3 and take any steps necessary to implement the plan or develop
4 a new plan for the occupation and use of Los Luceros and
5 include that in her report to the appropriate interim
6 legislative committees; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cultural affairs
8 department be requested to report to the interim revenue
9 stabilization and tax policy committee and to the legislative
10 finance committee on its audit findings no later than November
11 1, 2012; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs.
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Ben Lujan

BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Stephen R. Arias

STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES