



The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE MEMORIAL 10

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Introduced by

SENATOR CYNTHIA NAVA  
SENATOR MARY JANE M. GARCIA



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  
15 physical well-being or, in the words of one student, "we need  
16 to get more air and oxygen, which fuels our bodies and helps  
17 us 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 SENATE OF THE  
13 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the  
14 idea that every New Mexico child should have the opportunity  
15 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;

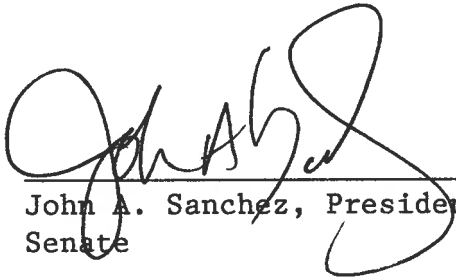
1           J. dig in the dirt and learn about the world from  
2 the ground up; and

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  
9 land office, the tourism department and the department of  
10 health be encouraged to develop and advertise outdoor  
11 programs for children, including opportunities on New Mexico  
12 state-owned lands, activities in and around schools such as  
13 outdoor gardening and increased physical education and  
14 outdoor and natural resource job and skills training; and

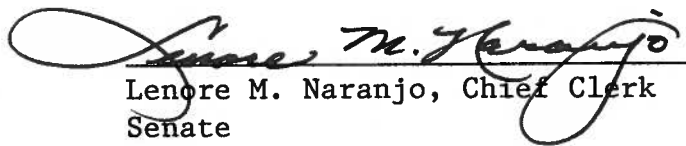
15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the governor, the children, youth and families  
17 department, the state parks division of the energy, minerals  
18 and natural resources department, the department of game and  
19 fish, the public education department,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

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John A. Sanchez, President  
Senate



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Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk  
Senate