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HOUSE BILL 23

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Kathleen Cates

AN ACT

RELATING TO TURF; PROHIBITING THE INSTALLATION OF NONFUNCTIONAL
TURF ON PROPERTY MANAGED BY THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OR
THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE BEGINNING IN 2028; PROHIBITING
THE USE OF WATER OTHER THAN RECYCLED OR RECLAIMED WATER TO
IRRIGATE NONFUNCTIONAL TURF ON PROPERTY MANAGED BY THE GENERAL
SERVICES DEPARTMENT OR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE
BEGINNING IN 2033; REQUIRING NONFUNCTIONAL TURF ON PROPERTY
MANAGED BY THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OR THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL SERVICE THAT IS REMOVED TO BE REPLACED WITH DROUGHT- OR
CLIMATE-RESILIENT LANDSCAPING BEGINNING IN 2033; PROVIDING
EXCEPTIONS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] NONFUNCTIONAL TURF--
PROHIBITIONS ON INSTALLATION AND WATER FOR IRRIGATION--

.232199.5

1 EXCEPTIONS.--

2 A. Beginning January 1, 2028, nonfunctional turf
3 shall not be installed on property managed by the general
4 services department or the legislative council service.

5 B. Except as provided in Subsection C of this
6 section, beginning January 1, 2033:

7 (1) only recycled or reclaimed water shall be
8 used to irrigate nonfunctional turf on property managed by the
9 general services department or the legislative council service;
10 and

11 (2) nonfunctional turf on property managed by
12 the general services department or the legislative council
13 service that is removed shall be replaced with drought- or
14 climate-resilient landscaping.

15 C. The following are exempt from the requirements
16 of this section:

17 (1) cemeteries; and

18 (2) nonfunctional turf under a tree's canopy
19 if the general services department or the legislative council
20 service makes the determination that replacing the
21 nonfunctional turf with mulch would not be feasible or
22 practical.

23 D. The general services department shall establish
24 the programs and procedures necessary to implement the
25 provisions of this section, including a procedure for that

.232199.5

1 department to reimburse the legislative council service for
2 costs the legislative council service incurs in complying with
3 the provisions of this section.

4 E. As used in this section:

5 (1) "drought- or climate-resilient
6 landscaping" includes efficient irrigation systems, such as
7 drip, water harvesting and reuse systems and organic mulches,
8 that maintain a landscape of xeriscaping, trees and other
9 plants that, once established, require little to no
10 supplemental water, such as native and drought-tolerant plants;
11 and

12 (2) "nonfunctional turf" means irrigated turf
13 grass that has no recreational purpose, is not accessible or is
14 primarily decorative.

15 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Three million five hundred
16 thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) is appropriated from the general
17 fund to the general services department for expenditure in
18 fiscal year 2027 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the
19 purposes of Section 1 of this act. Any unexpended balance
20 remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the
21 general fund.

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