

HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL 178

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

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO ALLOCATE FUNDING TO  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SHADE STRUCTURES IN  
RURAL PUBLIC PARKS AND OTHER OUTDOOR PUBLIC-USE RECREATION  
AREAS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION AND PREVENT  
SKIN CANCER.

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

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.**--Three million dollars  
(\$3,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the local  
government division of the department of finance and  
administration for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 and  
subsequent fiscal years to allocate funding to local  
governments for the construction and installation of protective  
shade structures in rural public parks and other outdoor

1 public-use recreation areas to reduce exposure to ultraviolet  
2 radiation, a primary environmental risk factor for skin cancer.  
3 The division shall prioritize project sites that demonstrate  
4 inadequate existing shade and significant ultraviolet radiation  
5 exposure risk in outdoor activity areas; that provide a  
6 feasible project plan, including design, cost estimates and  
7 time lines; and that propose cost-effective solutions that  
8 maximize ultraviolet radiation protection benefits. Any  
9 unexpended balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall  
10 not revert to the general fund.

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