

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 3

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A WORKSHOP
12 ABOUT INSECT IDENTIFICATION, ECOLOGY, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT
13 AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT INSECTS.

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a beautiful state that is rich in
16 natural resources and filled with a wide variety of plants and
17 animals, including insects, which make up over one-half of the
18 more than one million five hundred thousand identified animal
19 species on the planet; and

20 WHEREAS, insects, such as butterflies, bees, ants and
21 beetles, are six-legged invertebrates with three body segments,
22 antennae, compound eyes and an exoskeleton; and

23 WHEREAS, insects provide vital functions in ecosystems,
24 including being the primary pollinators of one-third of food
25 for global crop production, decomposing waste, eliminating

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1 pests, protecting soil health, especially in arid regions where
2 decomposition is slow, and serving as food for many species; as
3 one student said, "Bugs help the earth by helping the flowers
4 and our food grow"; and

5 WHEREAS, many people misunderstand insects and see insects
6 as pests, even though most are harmless and play an important
7 ecological role; as one student said, "[Sometimes] people are
8 fearful and disgusted with insects because they are uneducated
9 about their importance", and as another student said, "Insects
10 are misunderstood because they look gross and scary"; and

11 WHEREAS, insects are important to New Mexico's
12 communities, including indigenous communities, for everything
13 from ecosystem health to healthy soil for farming; as one class
14 said, "Insects are used to help our people [Navajo] with
15 protein and medicine", and another student emphasized that
16 "Without insects, the food chain could start to crumble and
17 have a lasting effect on humans"; and

18 WHEREAS, insects play critical ecological roles in every
19 ecosystem, and in the words of two students, "Insects weave
20 life through New Mexico's wild places", and "Insects make our
21 world a better place by maintaining balance in nature"; and

22 WHEREAS, scientists are worried about decreasing insect
23 populations due to habitat loss, pollution, pesticides,
24 invasive species and climate change, which threaten the
25 functioning and health of natural ecosystems; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 2025, a law amended the statutory definition
2 of "wildlife" to include invertebrates such as insects; and

3 WHEREAS, state land management agencies manage over nine
4 million acres of land in New Mexico and should have staff who
5 are knowledgeable about insects in the state; and

6 WHEREAS, it is important for state land management
7 agencies to study insects, which will enable the agencies to
8 make informed decisions about land management and wildlife and
9 to share their knowledge with the public so that, as one
10 student said, "people understand the value of insects and how
11 everyday actions can help protect them". Another student added
12 that "knowing more about insects might help people make better
13 choices about how they treat the environment"; and

14 WHEREAS, the wild friends program, a civics and science
15 education program for youth housed at the university of New
16 Mexico school of law; the university of New Mexico museum of
17 southwestern biology, a research and teaching facility about
18 biological diversity and the natural environment; and the
19 Xerces society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the
20 conservation of invertebrates and their habitats, have offered
21 to sponsor a workshop for interested agencies about insect
22 identification, ecology, monitoring and management in the
23 spring of 2026; and

24 WHEREAS, education is important, in the words of some
25 students, "to show how cool insects are and why people should

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1 protect them instead of assuming insects are gross", and
2 because "teaching others helps reduce fear and misinformation
3 about insects and most people are more likely to protect what
4 they understand"; and

5 WHEREAS, education can help the public learn how to
6 protect beneficial insects by taking actions such as avoiding
7 harmful pesticides, planting native plants of different heights
8 for food and shelter, providing water, turning off artificial
9 lights at night and leaving some leaves on the ground in the
10 fall and through the winter; and

11 WHEREAS, education can help, as a student eloquently
12 stated, "to protect all the creatures big and small that make
13 this the land of enchantment while at the same time ensuring
14 that many future generations are able to enjoy the beauty that
15 comes to us thanks to these tiny creatures who work diligently
16 behind the scenes"; and

17 WHEREAS, the importance of insects in ecosystems across
18 New Mexico and the role that the public and state agencies can
19 play in helping to protect them is widely recognized;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
21 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of game and fish, the state
22 land office, the state parks division and the forestry division
23 of the energy, minerals and natural resources department, the
24 New Mexico department of agriculture, the department of
25 transportation and other interested agencies be requested to

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1 participate in a workshop about insect identification, ecology,
2 monitoring and management, sponsored by the wild friends
3 program in conjunction with the museum of southwestern biology
4 and the Xerces society; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these state agencies be
6 encouraged to disseminate educational information about
7 insects, including materials designed by students in the wild
8 friends program; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the department of game and fish, the state land
11 office, the state parks division and the forestry division of
12 the energy, minerals and natural resources department, the New
13 Mexico department of agriculture and the department of
14 transportation for appropriate distribution.

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