SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

58TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2027

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

A JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO BY ADDING A NEW SECTION OF ARTICLE 2 TO PROVIDE THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO CLEAN AND HEALTHY AIR, WATER AND SOIL AND AN ENVIRONMENT THAT SUSTAINS HUMAN HEALTH, BIODIVERSITY, A STABLE CLIMATE AND THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL QUALITIES OF THE STATE, AND DIRECTS THE STATE, COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO SERVE AS TRUSTEES OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PEOPLE.

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

SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 2 of the constitution of New Mexico by adding a new section to read:

"A. The people of the state shall have a right to clean and healthy air, water and soil and an environment that sustains human health, biodiversity, a stable climate and the

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natural and cultural qualities of the state. The state, counties and municipalities shall consider the cumulative environmental impacts of decisions at all stages of decision making and shall act to advance environmental equity for all people, including future generations. Securing a more stable climate, including for future generations, is a compelling state interest and shall be a high priority.

B. The state, counties and municipalities shall serve as trustees of the natural resources of New Mexico and shall conserve, protect and maintain these resources for the benefit of all the people, including present and future generations, who are the beneficiaries.

C. The provisions of this section are self-executing. Monetary damages shall not be awarded for a violation of this section. This section is enforceable against the state, counties and municipalities."

SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at the next general election or at any special election prior to that date that may be called for that purpose.

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