

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SM 10

50th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2012

Tracking Number: .188114.1

Short Title: Outdoor Opportunities for Children

Sponsor(s): Senators Cynthia Nava and Mary Jane M. García

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: February 7, 2012

Bill Summary:

SM 10 expresses support for the idea that every New Mexico child should have the opportunity to:

- play outside and explore freely;
- watch wildlife in the outdoors;
- wade in a river, creek, lake, or pond;
- catch a fish and hunt for food;
- camp out under the stars;
- plant a seed and visit farms and ranches;
- hike a trail;
- explore public parks, open spaces, nature centers, and wildlife sanctuaries;
- actively care for land, water, and wildlife;
- dig in the dirt and learn about the world from the ground up; and
- use their imaginations to draw, dance, sing, and play outdoors.

Further, the memorial encourages the Children, Youth and Families Department, the State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (ENMNRD), the Department of Game and Fish, the Public Education Department, the State Land Office, the Tourism Department, and the Department of Health to develop and advertise:

- outdoor programs for children, including opportunities on New Mexico state-owned lands;
- activities in and around schools, such as outdoor gardening and increased physical education; and
- outdoor and natural resource job and skills training.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not contain appropriations.

Substantive Issues:

According to the State Parks Division of EMNRD:

- the Outdoor Classroom Program at New Mexico State Parks has offered hands-on, standards-based learning opportunities at 35 outdoor classrooms across the state to over 100,000 students;
- the Kids ‘n Parks Transportation Grant Program provides help with transportation costs to teachers seeking to pursue outdoors opportunities for their classes; and
- state parks have highly trained and dedicated natural and cultural resource professionals on staff, many of whom also have significant experience in education.

Related Bills:

HM 3 *Ample Outdoor Opportunities for Children* (Identical)