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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY STATE PARK AND RELATED FEES.

WHEREAS, state parks protect important natural and cultural resources and provide significant outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for New Mexicans and visitors; and

WHEREAS, providing reasonable and affordable access to state parks and outdoor recreation opportunities to New Mexicans and visitors is beneficial and helps increase state park visitation and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, state parks are a significant part of the outdoor recreation economy statewide; and

WHEREAS, state parks are local, regional and statewide economic drivers in urban and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, state parks support public health initiatives by engaging visitors in the outdoors and promoting healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources has rulemaking authority related to state park fees under Section 16-2-7 NMSA 1978; and

WHEREAS, the state parks division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department is currently

1 budgeted at approximately seventy-five percent from  
2 self-generated revenues that include state park fees and  
3 twenty-five percent from the general fund; and

4 WHEREAS, state parks division fees currently provide a  
5 significant percentage of the funding of the operations and  
6 management of state parks; and

7 WHEREAS, state park fee collections, verification,  
8 accounting and reporting require a great deal of staff time  
9 and significantly impact the operations of state parks; and

10 WHEREAS, the state would benefit from a review of state  
11 park and related fees to evaluate additional strategies for  
12 providing affordable access to all New Mexicans; and

13 WHEREAS, an evaluation of state park fees should also  
14 review options for providing potential opportunities of free  
15 access to state parks;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the  
18 energy, minerals and natural resources department be  
19 requested to undertake a study of the state park and related  
20 fee structure to determine opportunities and options to  
21 better manage for reasonable and affordable state park access  
22 to residents and non-residents; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
24 natural resources department be requested to report its  
25 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim

1 legislative committees by November 1, 2019; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
4 resources and the director of the state parks division of the  
5 energy, minerals and natural resources department. \_\_\_\_\_

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