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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Steinborn ORIGINAL DATE 03/07/19  
 LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Study State Park & Related Fees SM 69

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		Minimal			Nonrecurring	Various

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 69 (SM69) requests the State Parks Division (SPD) of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (ENMRD) to review and study state parks related fees.

SM69 provides the following:

- state parks protect important natural and cultural resources and provide significant outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for New Mexicans and visitors;
- providing reasonable and affordable access to state parks and outdoor recreation opportunities to visitors helps increase state park visitation and quality of life;
- state parks are a significant part of the outdoor recreation economy statewide;
- state parks are local, regional and statewide economic drivers in communities;
- state parks engage visitors in the outdoors and promote healthy lifestyles;
- EMNRD has rulemaking authority related to state park fees under Section 16-2-7;
- the SPD is currently budgeted at approximately seventy-five percent from self-generated revenues that include state park fees and twenty-five percent from the general fund;
- SPD fees currently provide a significant percentage of the funding of the operations and management of state parks;
- state park fee collections, verification, accounting and reporting require a great deal of staff time and significantly impact the operations of state parks;
- the state would benefit from a review of state park and related fees to evaluate additional strategies for providing affordable access to all New Mexicans; and
- the review should include options for providing free access opportunities to state parks.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

SM 69 asks SPD to study state park fee structures to determine opportunities and options to better manage for reasonable and affordable state park access to both residents and non-residents.

EMNRD's SPD will be required to conduct this study with existing staff and resources.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

State Park fees for entry, camping, and facilities within state park properties are some of the lowest in the country. Most fees have not changed in 20 years. State Parks admission is set at \$5 per vehicle for day use, \$8 per night for primitive camping, and \$10 for a developed camping site.

In New Mexico, nearly all state parks provide free access to walkers and bikers. In addition, state parks provide free annual day use permits to New Mexico veterans with 50 percent or more disability and a discounted \$100 annual camping permit for seniors and persons with disabilities.

In May 2018, the SPD announced increases in park facility rental fees, including raising rates for group shelters from \$30 to \$45, large group shelters from \$50 to \$90, and the lodge at Hyde Memorial State Park from \$500 to \$1,000 or \$1,500, depending upon the time of the rental.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

SM69 further requests that ENMRD's State Parks Division report its study findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committees by November 1, 2019.

AHO/al