

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Kelly K. Fajardo

A JOINT MEMORIAL

AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION; REQUESTING THE DECLARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK AND REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH LEAD A STUDY FOR A GRANT PROGRAM TO INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a rich cultural history of environmental stewardship, which should be continued into the future; and

WHEREAS, environmental education provides an effective means to teach common core state standards and next generation science standards, and environmental education increases student achievement in all fields of study; and

WHEREAS, environmental education provides a theme for interdisciplinary, project- and place-based learning that

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 enhances critical thinking skills, promotes student engagement
2 in learning and creates a stronger connection to the land of
3 New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, much of environmental education content falls
5 squarely into the subjects of science, technology, engineering
6 and mathematics, each of which provides a high-priority focus
7 for education; and

8 WHEREAS, a growing body of research and literature
9 indicates that being in nature is increasingly important for
10 children, especially for children raised in highly
11 industrialized urban environments; and

12 WHEREAS, outdoor education has been shown to increase
13 student focus and reduce symptoms of attention deficit disorder
14 and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and

15 WHEREAS, school gardens and wildlife habitats provide
16 school-based laboratories for science education and other
17 studies and generate greater community support for school
18 sites; and

19 WHEREAS, growing food at school increases nutritional
20 knowledge, promotes a healthful lifestyle and reduces childhood
21 obesity; and

22 WHEREAS, the New Mexico environmental literacy plan was
23 developed by more than three hundred teachers and non-formal
24 educators to provide guidelines for teaching quality
25 environmental education both inside the classroom and out of

.202608.2

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 doors; and

2 WHEREAS, environmental education leads to an
3 environmentally literate citizenry that makes sound and
4 effective decisions in a range of contexts and situations;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of environmental
7 education that contributes to the education, health and
8 responsible behavior of New Mexicans be affirmed by the
9 legislature; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
11 declare a week in April "Environmental Education Week" and to
12 encourage all kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers to
13 teach their students outdoors for at least one hour that week
14 and encourage state agencies to celebrate environmental
15 education through existing programs; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and
17 fish as lead agency and in cooperation with the state parks
18 division and the forestry division of the energy, minerals and
19 natural resources department; the state land office; the
20 department of health; the public education department; and the
21 children, youth and families department be requested to study
22 the feasibility of creating an environmental education grant
23 program to increase opportunities for environmental education
24 for New Mexico students and be requested to report back to the
25 appropriate interim committees by November 1, 2016; and

.202608.2

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
2 department be requested to provide a link on its website to the
3 New Mexico environmental literacy plan as a resource for
4 teachers; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the governor; the state parks division and the
7 forestry division of the energy, minerals and natural resources
8 department; the department of game and fish; the state land
9 office; the department of health; the public education
10 department; and the children, youth and families department.