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SENATE MEMORIAL 61

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO STATE LIBRARY TO SUPPORT A NEEDS
ASSESSMENT OF NEW MEXICO LIBRARIES AND TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST
WITH A STATEWIDE CONFERENCE TO IDENTIFY POLICIES AND GOALS FOR
IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICES.

WHEREAS, with the dawn of the digital age, libraries in
New Mexico and across the United States are no longer only
repositories of books; and

WHEREAS, like the rest of American society, the library's
role in the community has been transformed by the digital age;
and

WHEREAS, libraries have become service centers for many
New Mexicans who need free access to computer and internet
services, including residents in rural and underserved
populations in New Mexico; and

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1 WHEREAS, according to a study completed by the university
2 of New Mexico's bureau of business and economic research, New
3 Mexico's public libraries provided public access to one
4 thousand four hundred thirty-three computers in fiscal year
5 2011, with each library branch averaging twelve public-access
6 computers; and

7 WHEREAS, online access has become increasingly important
8 for multiple purposes; and

9 WHEREAS, more businesses require applicants to apply for a
10 job online, while employment with the state of New Mexico is
11 only conducted through online applications, and most job
12 notices today are posted online exclusively; and

13 WHEREAS, the American library association reports that for
14 the third consecutive year, services for job seekers remain the
15 top-rated internet service that libraries provide; and

16 WHEREAS, libraries are being called upon to provide
17 technology training, assistance with job applications and
18 support for accessing electronic government and social
19 services; and

20 WHEREAS, students at all levels require access to internet
21 and computer-based resources for educational purposes, and more
22 people are using computers and the internet to keep in touch
23 with families and colleagues; and

24 WHEREAS, libraries provide educational programming and
25 services for Native American and Spanish language users; and

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1 WHEREAS, funding for libraries was cut in New Mexico and
2 across the nation as a result of the economic recession, and
3 New Mexico libraries are challenged to meet these real and
4 increasing demands; and

5 WHEREAS, there are one hundred four public libraries,
6 including branch libraries, in New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, there are ninety-two school districts with eight
8 hundred twenty-one school libraries in New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, there are twenty-seven academic research,
10 comprehensive, branch and community college libraries and
11 nineteen tribal libraries in New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, there is a need for libraries and policymakers to
13 assess the expanded role of libraries and to identify the
14 necessary resources needed to properly fulfill this role; and

15 WHEREAS, there is a need for libraries and policymakers to
16 develop policies to provide future services to New Mexico
17 residents to achieve the goals of improved quality of life and
18 the enhanced economic well-being of its residents;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico state library, which serves
21 as the support agency for all libraries, be requested to
22 support a needs assessment of New Mexico libraries; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico state library
24 be requested to support and assist library organizations in New
25 Mexico to convene a statewide library conference to develop and

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1 adopt policies to achieve goals for improved library services;
2 and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the state librarian of the library division of
5 the cultural affairs department and to the president of the New
6 Mexico library association.

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