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SENATE MEMORIAL 69

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn

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

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1 economic drivers in urban and rural communities; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, the state parks division of the energy, minerals  
9 and natural resources department is currently budgeted at  
10 approximately seventy-five percent from self-generated revenues  
11 that include state park fees and twenty-five percent from the  
12 general fund; and

13 WHEREAS, state parks division fees currently provide a  
14 significant percentage of the funding of the operations and  
15 management of state parks; and

16 WHEREAS, state park fee collections, verification,  
17 accounting and reporting require a great deal of staff time and  
18 significantly impact the operations of state parks; and

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

22 WHEREAS, an evaluation of state park fees should also  
23 review options for providing potential opportunities of free  
24 access to state parks;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

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1 OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the energy,  
2 minerals and natural resources department be requested to  
3 undertake a study of the state park and related fee structure  
4 to determine opportunities and options to better manage for  
5 reasonable and affordable state park access to residents and  
6 non-residents; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
8 natural resources department be requested to report its  
9 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim  
10 legislative committees by November 1, 2019; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
13 resources and the director of the state parks division of the  
14 energy, minerals and natural resources department.

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