

1 A MEMORIAL

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

6
7 WHEREAS, with the dawn of the digital age, libraries in
8 New Mexico and across the United States are no longer only
9 repositories of books; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, according to a study completed by the
18 university of New Mexico's bureau of business and economic
19 research, New Mexico's public libraries provided public
20 access to one thousand four hundred thirty-three computers in
21 fiscal year 2011, with each library branch averaging twelve
22 public-access computers; and

23 WHEREAS, online access has become increasingly important
24 for multiple purposes; and

25 WHEREAS, more businesses require applicants to apply for SM 61
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1 a job online, while employment with the state of New Mexico
2 is only conducted through online applications, and most job
3 notices today are posted online exclusively; and

4 WHEREAS, the American library association reports that
5 for the third consecutive year, services for job seekers
6 remain the top-rated internet service that libraries provide;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, libraries are being called upon to provide
9 technology training, assistance with job applications and
10 support for accessing electronic government and social
11 services; and

12 WHEREAS, students at all levels require access to
13 internet and computer-based resources for educational
14 purposes, and more people are using computers and the
15 internet to keep in touch with families and colleagues; and

16 WHEREAS, libraries provide educational programming and
17 services for Native American and Spanish language users; and

18 WHEREAS, funding for libraries was cut in New Mexico and
19 across the nation as a result of the economic recession, and
20 New Mexico libraries are challenged to meet these real and
21 increasing demands; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, there are twenty-seven academic research,
2 comprehensive, branch and community college libraries and
3 nineteen tribal libraries in New Mexico; and

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

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

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

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico state library
16 be requested to support and assist library organizations in
17 New Mexico to convene a statewide library conference to
18 develop and adopt policies to achieve goals for improved
19 library services; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the state librarian of the library division of
22 the cultural affairs department and to the president of the
23 New Mexico library association. _____

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