

LFC Requester: _____

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 Regular Session**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:
Original **Amendment** _____
Correction _____ **Substitute** _____

Date 2/21/25
Bill No: House Bill 576 (HB576)

Sponsor: Rep. Stefani Lord
Short Title: _____

Agency Name and Code EMNRD 521
Number: _____
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
N/A	TBD	TBD	Recurring	OSF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD	Recurring	OSF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

HB576 amends 32A-3A-12 NMSA 1978 to provide adopted children who are residents of the state, with free admission to state-owned museums and state parks, a camping pass for up to three consecutive nights of camping to a state park, and a fishing license.

HB576 defines “adopted child” as a person under the age of eighteen who was adopted when the person was in the custody of the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) or a person certified, licensed or otherwise specially empowered by law to place a child in a home in this or any other state for the purpose of adoption.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The State Parks Division (SPD) of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department generates approximately 75% of its annual operating revenue and park user fees are critical to accomplish this. The remaining 25% of SPD’s operating budget is provided through the General Fund (GF). On average, over the last 15 years, SPD’s GF allocation has been nearly flat.

Recently, SPD completed a state park fees feasibility study and held 19 public listening sessions across the state in person and virtually. SPD received tremendous interest with over 400 in-person attendees and received nearly 1,000 written comments. After evaluating the public input, SPD revised its initial fees proposals and were then broadly supported in the rulemaking process.

As a result of this SPD initiative, effective January 1, 2025, SPD implemented free day-use at state parks for all New Mexico residents from October 1 – April 30 annually. State park day-use fees for New Mexico residents are assessed per vehicle from May 1 – September 30 annually at a cost of \$5 per vehicle.

If HB576 is enacted there may be a negative fiscal impact depending on the use of the benefit by adopted children. SPD reached out to CYFD for data to determine how many New Mexico resident adopted children under the age of 18 would qualify for this benefit. This data was not readily available, and SPD was unable to find this data through other research methods. Due to the uncertainty regarding the number of potentially eligible adopted children under the age of 18 in New Mexico, the total fiscal impact to SPD is unknown.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SPD currently provides foster parents and children in the custody of foster parents, young adults enrolled in the fostering connections program, children who are in the custody of the Department or in tribal custody, who are New Mexico residents’ free admission to state-owned state parks and a camping pass for up to three consecutive nights of overnight access to a state park.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB576 is unclear regarding how “adopted children” may demonstrate proof of identity and residency. This proof will be provided and evaluated at thirty-five state parks located in 25 of 33 counties across the state.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB576 proposes the effective date of the provisions of this act to be July 1, 2025. If HB576 is enacted, SPD must engage in the rulemaking process immediately to appropriately amend NMAC 19.5.2.38 Foster Families.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB161 (State Park Day Passes for Veterans) proposes that SPD provide one day-use pass for unlimited entry into state parks and one camping pass for unlimited use of camping areas operated by SPD to New Mexico resident veterans. According to the Department of Veteran Services 2024 annual report, there are currently 141,746 New Mexico resident veterans that will qualify for these benefits.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB576 is not passed, adopted children who are residents of the state will not receive free admission to state-owned museums and state parks, a camping pass for up to three consecutive nights of camping to a state park, or a fishing license.

AMENDMENTS

None.