

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 66

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING A STUDY OF WAYS TO INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF
12 PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS OUTDOORS ON PUBLIC LANDS.

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14 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a variety of exceptional public
15 lands that provide quality outdoor learning environments; and
16 WHEREAS, many children do not have access to public lands;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, only five percent of students in kindergarten
19 through grade twelve have access to public lands on a regular
20 basis; and

21 WHEREAS, obesity is on the rise in New Mexico, especially
22 in young children; and

23 WHEREAS, outdoor experiences encourage physical activity,
24 which is a key to preventing obesity; and

25 WHEREAS, there is a need for hands-on teaching materials

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1 for children who begin to access the outdoors through their
2 experiences in the public schools; and

3 WHEREAS, there is also a need for transportation for
4 children who want to experience outdoor education programs; and

5 WHEREAS, coordination among state agencies will be
6 required to increase the use of public lands by students; and

7 WHEREAS, a 2005 study found that outdoor, interactive
8 education can increase student test scores, reduce discipline
9 problems, build citizenry skills and increase teacher job
10 satisfaction; and

11 WHEREAS, a partnership between the state parks division of
12 the energy, minerals and natural resources department and the
13 public education department would have enormous potential to
14 inspire education of New Mexico's children, benefit state parks
15 and better serve the state;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the
18 energy, minerals and natural resources department be requested
19 to convene a task force composed of representatives of the
20 department of game and fish, the public education department,
21 the national park service, the United States fish and wildlife
22 service and the New Mexico retail association to plan for ways
23 to maximize student use of the state's precious public lands;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its

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1 conclusions to the legislative health and human services
2 committee by November 2007 on effective ways to increase
3 student participation in outdoor education programs; on how
4 much state funding will be required for educational materials
5 development, transportation and other expenses; and on specific
6 steps the legislature can take to make use of public lands in
7 the prevention of obesity of public school students; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the state parks division of the energy, minerals
10 and natural resources department, the secretary of public
11 education, the director of game and fish, the New Mexico retail
12 association and the New Mexico offices of the national park
13 service and the United States national fish and wildlife
14 service.

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