



N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(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**

Senate Memorial 15 (SM15) requests the governor to declare a "Citizen Science Day," thereby expanding awareness of citizen science as a resource across state agencies.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no appropriations in SM15. These additional functions and duties will likely increase the New Mexico Higher Education Department's administrative costs, but further review is still needed to ascertain the full financial impact. It is also important to note that the appropriation does not include any funding to help cover the increased costs and workload associated with these new duties.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

During the 2024 regular legislative session, the New Mexico House of Representatives passed HM34, establishing a working group comprising the State Parks Division (under the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department), the Department of Environment, the State Land Office, the Department of Game and Fish, and other relevant state agencies. The group's mandate is to develop recommendations for expanding citizen science initiatives, public participation in scientific research across New Mexico. Following its formation, the working group produced a report outlining actionable strategies and has since begun implementing measures to

systematically integrate citizen science into state agency operations, programs, and data-collection frameworks.

SM15 formally recognizes the importance of citizen science in engaging youth and the public in scientific inquiry and outdoor activities while supporting state agencies' data-collection efforts. The resolution calls on the governor to establish an annual "Citizen Science Day" to honor New Mexico residents and projects that have advanced citizen science initiatives statewide. This designated day would highlight contributions ranging from community-led environmental monitoring to collaborative wildlife research, emphasizing how grassroots participation strengthens both scientific literacy and agency operations.

SM 15 requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department, the Outdoor Recreation Division of the Economic Development Department, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, and the New Mexico Higher Education Department review the work group report, "Recommendations to Expand the Use of Citizen Science in State Agencies," and provide recommendations to integrate citizen science, especially for the youth, into their respective agencies.

#### PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Following a review of the report, each identified state agency, including the New Mexico Public Education Department, the Outdoor Recreation Division (under the Economic Development Department), the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, and the New Mexico Higher Education Department, will develop agency-specific performance measures to integrate citizen science initiatives into their operations, prioritizing youth engagement. These measures aim to institutionalize participatory science programs that align with each agency's mission while fostering collaboration between residents, students, and state institutions.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This request does not include any additional appropriations to help cover the increased costs and workload associated with these new duties.

#### CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 262 (SB 262) introduced by Senator Pete Campos in the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

Senate Memorial 13 (SM13) introduced by Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez in the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

House Memorial 31 (HM31) introduced by Representative Linda Serrato in the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

House Memorial 34 (HM34) introduced by Representative Kristina Ortez in the 2024 Regular Legislative Session. Signed.

Senate Memorial 1 (SM1) introduced by Senator Jeff Steinborn in the 2024 Regular Legislative Session. No action.

#### TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

#### OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

#### ALTERNATIVES

There are several other bills and memorials introduced in this 2025 Regular Legislative Session that may be passed and signed, which would move SM15 forward.

#### WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SM 15 is enacted, then above mentioned state agencies will not provide recommendations to integrate citizen science, especially for the youth, into their respective agencies. Furthermore, a "Citizen Science Day" would not be declared and many New Mexico residents and projects that have made significant contributions to citizen science across the state will not be recognized.

#### AMENDMENTS

N/A