

HOUSE GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS AND INDIAN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL 85

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

AN ACT

RELATING TO TURF; PROHIBITING THE INSTALLATION OF NONFUNCTIONAL  
TURF ON PROPERTY MANAGED BY THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
BEGINNING IN 2027; PROHIBITING THE USE OF WATER OTHER THAN  
RECYCLED OR RECLAIMED WATER TO IRRIGATE NONFUNCTIONAL TURF ON  
PROPERTY MANAGED BY THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT BEGINNING  
IN 2032; REQUIRING NONFUNCTIONAL TURF ON PROPERTY MANAGED BY  
THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT THAT IS REMOVED TO BE REPLACED  
WITH DROUGHT- OR CLIMATE-RESILIENT LANDSCAPING BEGINNING IN  
2032; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1.** [NEW MATERIAL] NONFUNCTIONAL TURF--  
PROHIBITIONS ON INSTALLATION AND WATER FOR IRRIGATION--  
EXCEPTIONS--PENALTY.--

A. On or after January 1, 2027, nonfunctional turf

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1 shall not be installed on property managed by the general  
2 services department.

3 B. Except as provided in Subsection C of this  
4 section, on or after January 1, 2032:

5 (1) no water other than recycled or reclaimed  
6 water shall be used to irrigate nonfunctional turf on property  
7 managed by the general services department; and

8 (2) nonfunctional turf on property managed by  
9 the general services department that is removed shall be  
10 replaced with drought- or climate-resilient landscaping.

11 C. The following are exempt from the requirements  
12 of this section:

13 (1) property under the control and management  
14 of the commissioner of public lands;

15 (2) cemeteries; and

16 (3) nonfunctional turf under a tree's canopy  
17 if the general services department considers replacing the  
18 nonfunctional turf with mulch and makes the determination that  
19 such replacement would not be feasible or practical.

20 D. The general services department shall establish  
21 the programs and procedures and promulgate rules necessary to  
22 implement the provisions of this section.

23 E. As used in this section:

24 (1) "drought- or climate-resilient  
25 landscaping" includes efficient irrigation systems, such as

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1 drip, water harvesting and reuse systems, organic mulches,  
2 xeriscaping, trees and other plants that, once established,  
3 require little to no supplemental water, such as native and  
4 drought-tolerant plants; and

5 (2) "nonfunctional turf" means irrigated turf  
6 grass that has no recreational purpose or that is primarily  
7 decorative and includes turf in or around medians, roundabouts,  
8 parking lots, landscape strips between the sidewalk and the  
9 street, commercial properties and industrial properties.

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