

1 HOUSE BILL 576

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Stefani Lord

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO ADOPTED CHILDREN; PROVIDING ADOPTED CHILDREN WITH  
12 FREE ADMISSION TO STATE-OWNED MUSEUMS AND STATE PARKS, CAMPING  
13 PASSES AND FISHING LICENSES.

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

16 SECTION 1. Section 32A-3A-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
17 Chapter 132, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "32A-3A-12. FOSTER FAMILIES--FREE ADMISSION TO MUSEUMS  
19 AND STATE PARKS--CAMPING PASSES--FISHING LICENSES.--

20 A. As provided in Subsection B of this section,  
21 foster parents and children in the custody of foster parents,  
22 young adults enrolled in the fostering connections program,  
23 adopted children and children who are in the custody of the  
24 [~~children, youth and families~~] department or in tribal custody,  
25 who are residents of the state, shall be provided for free:

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1 (1) admission to state-owned museums and state  
2 parks;

3 (2) a camping pass for up to three consecutive  
4 nights of overnight access to a state park; and

5 (3) a fishing license.

6 B. Eligibility for free admission shall be  
7 contingent on demonstration of proof of identity, residency and  
8 status as a foster parent, child in the custody of a foster  
9 parent, young adult enrolled in the fostering connections  
10 program, adopted child or child in the custody of the  
11 [~~children, youth and families~~] department or in tribal custody  
12 in accordance with rules of the:

13 (1) cultural affairs department, for free day-  
14 use admission to state-owned museums;

15 (2) energy, minerals and natural resources  
16 department, for free day-use admission and camping passes to  
17 state parks; or

18 (3) state game commission, for fishing  
19 licenses.

20 C. As used in this section, "adopted child" means a  
21 person under the age of eighteen who was adopted when the  
22 person was in the custody of the department or a person  
23 certified, licensed or otherwise specially empowered by law to  
24 place a child in a home in this or any other state for the  
25 purpose of adoption."

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SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2025.