

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH  
12 THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT,  
13 THE NEW MEXICO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AND NEW MEXICO COUNTIES, TO  
14 CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A "NEW MEXICO  
15 HISTORY ROOM" IN A LOCAL LIBRARY IN EACH COUNTY IN THE STATE  
16 AND TO REPORT THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STUDY  
17 TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE.

18  
19 WHEREAS, New Mexico arguably has the most rich and complex  
20 history of any state of the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, much of New Mexico's surface land was once a sea  
22 floor, and the mineral resources that drive much of New  
23 Mexico's economy were formed and deposited over eons through  
24 the interaction of intercontinental drift and the establishment  
25 and replacement of successive dominant ecosystems during the

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1 geologic rise of the Rocky mountain system and the intermontane  
2 plateaus; and

3 WHEREAS, the topography of modern New Mexico was shaped by  
4 a complex interplay of volcanism, geologic upthrust and  
5 hydrological processes over hundreds of thousands of years; and

6 WHEREAS, the geologic and evolutionary history of New  
7 Mexico has been and continues to be an area of scientific  
8 research; and

9 WHEREAS, the earliest evidence of human occupation of New  
10 Mexico, discovered in 1908 near Folsom, New Mexico, is believed  
11 to be approximately thirteen thousand years old; and

12 WHEREAS, the 1908 discovery was the seminal evidence of  
13 what later became known as the "Clovis culture" after the 1929  
14 discovery of a larger complex at Blackwater draw near Clovis,  
15 New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, the Clovis culture was once pervasive in North  
17 America, and based on available DNA evidence, it is estimated  
18 that eighty percent of all Native Americans are descended from  
19 the Clovis people; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico's indigenous linguistic heritage is  
21 incredibly diverse, with primary connections to cultures  
22 including the Kiowa people in Oklahoma and Texas through the  
23 Tewa and Towa languages currently spoken in several north  
24 central New Mexico pueblos; the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo people in  
25 west Texas through the Tiwa languages spoken in several central

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1 New Mexican pueblos; the Tlingit-speaking peoples of northwest  
2 Canada and Alaska; and possibly the Asian Ket people living in  
3 Siberia north of Mongolia through the Na-Dene languages spoken  
4 by New Mexico's Navajo and Apache peoples; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico has inherited at least two language  
6 isolates, the Zuni and the Keresan, that do not appear to have  
7 originated from precursor language families and thus represent  
8 unique legacy languages for the state; and

9 WHEREAS, historically, eastern New Mexico was the western  
10 edge of Comanche territory, and the architecture at the Salinas  
11 ruins in the Sandia mountains indicates that it was a pueblo  
12 settlement that was likely influenced by its interactions with  
13 the plains culture of the Comanches; and

14 WHEREAS, the mountains, plains and river valleys of New  
15 Mexico have stood witness as succeeding waves of culturally  
16 separate Native Americans and then Spanish, Mexican and  
17 American settlers competed, often violently, for land and  
18 water; and

19 WHEREAS, the advent of the intercontinental railroad  
20 created a post-Civil-War-era boom in the western cattle  
21 industry to supply the eastern markets; and

22 WHEREAS, the continuing competition for land and water  
23 spurred on by the cattle markets created the conditions for the  
24 Lincoln County War, conducted by men with colorful names such  
25 as "Buckshot" Anderson, "Dash" Wait, "Big Jim" French and Billy

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1 "the Kid", and forever intertwined New Mexico in the  
2 development of the American legend of the "Wild West"; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico has played a central role in the  
4 development of the United States' predominance as an  
5 international military power and scientific leader through the  
6 work of the Manhattan project in the 1940s and continuing to  
7 the present through the ongoing scientific research and  
8 technological development at Los Alamos national laboratory and  
9 Sandia national laboratories; and

10 WHEREAS, the rich and complex history of New Mexico has  
11 resulted in a unique culinary, musical, artistic and literary  
12 culture that draws international interest, exemplified by the  
13 state's vibrant tourism industry; and

14 WHEREAS, it is important for New Mexico's residents,  
15 particularly its school children, to have access to materials  
16 that help them learn and understand the state's history and the  
17 role it has played and continues to play in the creation of the  
18 American identity;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural affairs department, in  
21 cooperation with the Indian affairs department, the public  
22 education department, the New Mexico municipal league and New  
23 Mexico counties, be requested to study the feasibility of  
24 creating a New Mexico history room dedicated to the archiving  
25 and display of materials about New Mexico's history in a local

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1 library in each county in the state; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cultural affairs  
3 department be requested to present a report on the findings of  
4 its study to the appropriate interim legislative committee by  
5 November 30, 2020, and that the report include:

6 A. an estimate of the capital costs involved in  
7 creating New Mexico history rooms in a local library in each  
8 county;

9 B. the statewide costs of developing and  
10 maintaining materials for the New Mexico history rooms;

11 C. an estimate of the additional library staff  
12 needed for the New Mexico history rooms and the projected  
13 recurring costs for that staff;

14 D. recommendations regarding whether a state agency  
15 or the local libraries should be the leading entities for the  
16 development, operation and ownership of the New Mexico history  
17 rooms and their collections; and

18 E. a recommendation for where each facility should  
19 be located in each county; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs, the secretary  
22 of Indian affairs, the secretary of public education, the  
23 executive director of the New Mexico municipal league, the  
24 executive director of New Mexico counties, the director of the  
25 New Mexico state library and the chair of the board of county

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1 commissioners of each county in New Mexico.

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