

HB 291: RECYCLING, CIRCULAR ECONOMY, ILLEGAL DUMPING ACT



Allows New Mexico to spur economic development through market-driven recycling programs, fostering a more circular economy.

Why is this bill important?

By amending this Act, New Mexico opens the door to innovative approaches to recycling that will expand jobs and investments across the state while reducing solid waste and addressing hard-to-handle wastes that are often illegally dumped or potentially dangerous to human health and the environment.

In addition, this bill opens up grant awards to a broader range of recycling projects, giving local governments the ability to increase access to recycling in ways that suit their unique community needs.

These amendments create market-based approaches to spur a circular economy in New Mexico that are already embraced by the private sector and state governments in the U.S.

Companies in New Mexico, such as Amazon and Carbogenics, already have programs in place to take advantage. This bill would not only bolster their investment in New Mexico further, but also attract other innovative and sustainability-minded companies to the Land of Enchantment.

Previous Votes

House Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee: **11-0**

House Floor: **58-2**

House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee: **7-1**

Senate Conservation Committee: **7-0**

How will it benefit New Mexico?

Economy

- ✓ Recycling and building a circular economy are economic development! Recycling creates jobs, investments, and a steady stream of materials for manufacturing, where today's 'trash' becomes tomorrow's commodities.
- ✓ By developing smarter and more market-based approaches, local governments can save money.

Public Health

- ✓ Smarter waste programs can lead to less toxic or dangerous materials in our communities and their waste streams.
- ✓ Minimizes the impacts from solid waste facilities – like transfer stations and landfills – on communities.

Environment

- ✓ Minimize illegal dumping polluting our water and land.
- ✓ Harmonizes the current patchwork of recycling and waste programs across New Mexico.
- ✓ Conserves natural resources and energy by approaching waste as a resource and working toward a circular economy.

House Sponsors: **Rep. Andrea Romero**

Rep. Tara L. Lujan

Senate Sponsor: **Sen. Jeff Steinborn**

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To learn more, contact: Rick.Shean@env.nm.gov or Shirlene.Sitton@env.nm.gov