HR 2785

New Mexico Land Grant-Mercedes Historical or Traditional Use Cooperation and Coordination Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources
Introduced: Apr 9, 2025
Current Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held
Latest Action: Subcommittee Hearings Held (May 21, 2026)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2785

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Leger Fernandez, Teresa [D-NM-3]
Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Stansbury, Melanie A. [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Apr 17, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 9, 2025
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	May 12, 2026
Natural Resources Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	May 21, 2026

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 S 1363	Related bill	**Sep 24, 2026:** Held at the desk.
119 S 1363	Identical bill	**Dec 17, 2025:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.

Summary (as of Apr 9, 2025)

New Mexico Land Grant-Mercedes Historical or Traditional Use Cooperation and Coordination Act

This bill directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service to enter a memorandum of understanding with the New Mexico Land Grant Council to describe existing processes that land grants-mercedes may use to obtain authorization for historical, traditional, or other uses of federal lands.

Land grants-mercedes were created when Spain and Mexico issued grants of land to communities or individuals. When the United States acquired the land, including New Mexico, a process was created for adjudicating and recognizing these property rights. During that process, most land grants-mercedes lands became federal lands. Today, New Mexico recognizes 27 community land grants-mercedes as political subdivisions.

When entering into the memorandum of understanding, the BLM and the Forest Service must consult with Indian tribes.

The memorandum of understanding must provide for (1) enhanced cooperation and coordination between the BLM, the Forest Service, and qualified land grants-mercedes; and (2) subsidiary agreements with certain land grants-mercedes for specific projects.

Additionally, the bill outlines what the memorandum of understanding must describe, such as the procedures for notice and comments on land management planning decisions.

Finally, the BLM and the Forest Service must include in land use plans a section that evaluates the impact of other uses in the plan on historical or traditional uses by land grants-mercedes.

Actions Timeline

- **May 21, 2026:** Subcommittee Hearings Held
- **May 12, 2026:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Apr 9, 2025:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 9, 2025:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com