

REFERENCE TITLE: *Arizona's get outdoors initiative*

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HCR 2019

Introduced by
Representative Cobb

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING ARIZONA'S GET OUTDOORS INITIATIVE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, the outdoor industry in Arizona represents a major
2 potential economic engine that could bring more jobs, prosperity, vitality
3 and wellness to Arizona residents and their communities. Currently, the
4 outdoor industry employs 201,000 people, generates \$4.8 billion in wages
5 and salaries, results in \$23.2 billion in consumer spending and generates
6 \$1.4 billion in local and state tax revenues; and

7 Whereas, attracting outdoor industries to Arizona, particularly to
8 rural communities, and making investments in recreation businesses and
9 outdoor amenities serve to improve our total economy and enhance the
10 quality and quantity of outdoor experiences for all Arizonans; and

11 Whereas, communities across Arizona recognize that outdoor
12 recreation supports health, contributes to a high quality of life and
13 attracts and sustains employers and families; and

14 Whereas, scientific research shows that both children and adults are
15 spending more time inside than previous generations, are increasingly
16 distanced from nature, are engaging in less physical exercise and are at
17 increased risk for poor health because of sedentary practices; and

18 Whereas, research shows that time spent in nature by all people can
19 lead to physical, mental, developmental and behavioral health benefits;
20 and

21 Whereas, there is significant value in providing opportunities for
22 the people of Arizona to experience awe-inspiring moments while gazing and
23 reflecting on the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon State's uniquely
24 spectacular outdoor places; and

25 Whereas, quality time in the natural world encourages curiosity and
26 provides hands-on field experience and experiential learning, resulting in
27 improved learning across various fields of science; and

28 Whereas, Arizonans have a rich and diverse heritage of outdoor
29 pursuits and an intimate relationship to the land, wildlife, clean water,
30 clear skies and cultural resources; and

31 Whereas, public lands represent a significant portion of Arizona's
32 land base and are critical components of a healthy outdoor environment
33 that are low cost to access and beneficial to all residents; and

34 Whereas, fostering equity of access to outdoor opportunities is
35 fundamental to ensuring that all state residents can enjoy Arizona's
36 natural resources; and

37 Whereas, the time is now for Arizona to harness the economic
38 opportunities available within America's \$877 billion per year outdoor
39 recreation industry, and the well-being and physical, mental and social
40 development of Arizona's residents relies on promoting healthy, active
41 lifestyles filled with outdoor experiences for everyone, all while
42 respecting private property rights.

1 Therefore

2 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
3 the Senate concurring:

4 That the Members of the Legislature support Arizona's Get Outdoors
5 Initiative, which states that every resident in Arizona should have the
6 opportunity to:

7 1. Enjoy and observe nature and wildlife in Arizona through
8 activities like birdwatching, hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, trail
9 running, trail riding, mountain biking, four-wheeling, stargazing or just
10 wandering in the outdoors.

11 2. Learn about, appreciate and respect indigenous cultural
12 resources, petroglyphs, pictographs, ancient habitation sites and
13 landscapes as sacred places best left undisturbed.

14 3. Explore Arizona's parks, forests, public lands and wild places.

15 4. Experience Arizona's mountains, deserts, canyons, lakes and
16 rivers.

17 5. Gaze at a starry sky or sleep in a tent.

18 6. Bring along a friend to discover nearby nature right outside
19 one's own backyard and beyond.

20 7. Splash in Arizona's rivers, lakes, streams and hot springs.

21 8. Follow a trail.

22 9. Plant a seed and tend a garden.

23 10. Be a steward and take care of Arizona's outdoor places and
24 landscapes so future generations can also enjoy these precious assets.