

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,  
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE  
APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL FOR NEW  
MEXICO TO JOIN WITH OTHER STATES IN THE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR  
COMPACT.

WHEREAS, wildlife resources are valuable without regard  
to political boundaries, and every person should be required  
to comply with wildlife laws; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the state's wildlife  
resources is materially affected by the degree of compliance  
with state statutes, laws, regulations and rules relating to  
the management of such natural resources; and

WHEREAS, violation of wildlife laws interferes with the  
management of wildlife resources and may endanger the safety  
of persons and property; and

WHEREAS, crossing state lines offers refuge for wildlife

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1 violators wishing to continue their illegal desecration of  
2 wildlife, and it is important for New Mexico to cooperate  
3 with other states to catch illegal poachers, especially  
4 commercial poachers; and

5 WHEREAS, the Wildlife Violator Compact is an agreement  
6 that so far has been signed by ten states, Arizona, Colorado,  
7 Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, West  
8 Virginia and Wyoming, to help one another identify and catch  
9 poachers, and the international association of fish and  
10 wildlife agencies is encouraging all fifty states to join  
11 this compact; and

12 WHEREAS, the Wildlife Violator Compact helps eliminate  
13 the illegal sale and possession of animal parts used in the  
14 black market; and

15 WHEREAS, by joining the Wildlife Violator Compact the  
16 New Mexico department of game and fish would have access to  
17 information from participating states about previous wildlife  
18 violations by persons who are applying for hunting and  
19 fishing licenses in New Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, by joining the Wildlife Violator Compact New  
21 Mexico would be able to recognize the suspension of hunting  
22 and fishing license privileges of persons whose licenses have  
23 been suspended by another participating state; and

24 WHEREAS, the mobility of many wildlife law violators  
25 necessitates the maintenance of channels of communication  
among the various states, and Wildlife Violator Compact  
member states can enforce wildlife laws to stop poachers from

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1 trying to avoid being caught by crossing state lines; and

2 WHEREAS, joining the Wildlife Violator Compact would  
3 help provide protection for game species as well as  
4 threatened and endangered species in New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, people are making too much money, up to one  
6 million dollars (\$1,000,000) per year, from the illegal  
7 taking of wildlife, and poachers give hunters a bad name; and

8 WHEREAS, poaching of wildlife is unethical; and

9 WHEREAS, a relationship has been found by the department  
10 of game and fish between poaching of wildlife and drug  
11 trafficking, and the Wildlife Violator Compact helps combat  
12 poaching; and

13 WHEREAS, wildlife resources are managed in trust by the  
14 respective states for the benefit of all residents and  
15 visitors and joining the Wildlife Violator Compact would  
16 benefit all New Mexico residents and visitors because  
17 violation of wildlife laws interferes with the management of  
18 wildlife, which contributes immeasurably to the aesthetic,  
19 recreational and economic aspects of our state; and

20 WHEREAS, for the sake of our children and future  
21 generations wildlife should be protected from poaching,  
22 especially commercial poaching;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council  
25 be requested to direct the appropriate interim committee of  
the legislature to study the potential for New Mexico to join  
with other states in the Wildlife Violator Compact; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that wild friends students participating in the writing of this memorial have an opportunity to participate in the legislative committee hearing by offering their testimonials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to members of the New Mexico legislative council.