

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 18

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A STUDY TO RECOMMEND INCREASES IN PENALTIES FOR
KILLING CERTAIN BIG GAME ANIMALS FOR THEIR HEADS, ANTLERS OR
BODY PARTS AND WASTING THEIR MEAT.

WHEREAS, it is illegal to take the heads, antlers or other
body parts of deer, elk, bighorn sheep, oryx, ibex, pronghorn
antelope and javelina and leave the carcasses to rot; and

WHEREAS, conservation officers and citizens are
discovering decapitated bodies of big game animals such as mule
deer, elk, bighorn sheep, oryx, ibex, pronghorn antelope and
javelina; and

WHEREAS, poachers take from legal hunters who pay for
their hunting licenses, follow the law and appreciate the need
for wildlife conservation; and

WHEREAS, human beings should be respectful of the animals

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1 they kill and wasting animals is disrespectful and disgusting;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, uncaring, heartless poachers have been known to
4 kill does and fawns; and

5 WHEREAS, poachers are defaming the name of the "land of
6 enchantment" and giving a bad name to responsible hunters; and

7 WHEREAS, citizens should be protected from the heartbreak
8 of discovering the rotting bodies of beheaded and dismembered
9 animals; and

10 WHEREAS, poachers leaving carcasses of big game animals
11 are fined very little, from fifty dollars (\$50.00) to five
12 hundred dollars (\$500), and may be repeat offenders; and

13 WHEREAS, the wild friends and other citizens wish to
14 decrease wanton waste and trophy poaching by increasing fines
15 and jail sentences for offenders, adding community service and
16 requiring restitution to the state of the value of the animal
17 killed; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the lowest penalties for wasting
19 big game animals of all the Rocky Mountain states, classifying
20 waste as a misdemeanor offense while other states have higher
21 misdemeanors or felonies or both, community service and
22 restitution; and

23 WHEREAS, stronger measures need to be taken to protect New
24 Mexico's big game animals from poachers, who should learn that
25 their illegal actions will not be tolerated; and

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1 WHEREAS, increasing penalties may encourage people to try
2 to stop this crime if they have friends or relatives who waste
3 big game;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative interim committee that
6 studies corrections issues be requested to study increasing
7 penalties for killing big game animals for their antlers, heads
8 or body parts and wasting the meat; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee consider ways to
10 decrease wasting wildlife, such as increasing fines and jail
11 sentences for first and repeat offenders, creating a felony for
12 repeat offenders, requiring restitution to the state for the
13 value of the wasted animal, requiring community service for
14 offenders and requiring mandatory education for convicted
15 poachers; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies be requested to
17 take steps to increase public awareness that unlawful hunters
18 are wasting New Mexico's natural resources and how the public
19 can report these crimes; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the department of game and fish, the chair of
22 the state game commission and the director of the state parks
23 division of the energy, minerals and natural resources
24 department.