

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

INTRODUCED BY

Raymond G. Sanchez

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

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

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

.131314.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

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

.131314.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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.