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HOUSE MEMORIAL 90

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH TO REVIEW THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT AND OTHER STATE STATUTES RELATED TO WILDLIFE AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION; REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO PUBLISH A REPORT FOLLOWING THE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION; REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO ADOPT ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH.

WHEREAS, the stated mission of the department of game and fish is to "conserve, regulate, propagate and protect the wildlife and fish within the state of New Mexico"; and

WHEREAS, the department of game and fish plays a critical statutory role in the management of wildlife in the state; and

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1           WHEREAS, the Wildlife Conservation Act requires the  
2 department of game and fish to evaluate the existence and  
3 habitat needs of threatened and endangered species; and

4           WHEREAS, New Mexico law provides that wildlife indigenous  
5 to the state that may be found to be threatened or endangered  
6 should be managed in order to maintain and, to the extent  
7 possible, enhance their numbers within the carrying capacity of  
8 the habitat; and

9           WHEREAS, New Mexico law requires development, to the  
10 extent practicable, of a recovery plan for any species listed  
11 as threatened or endangered; and

12           WHEREAS, New Mexico law requires the department of game  
13 and fish to seek available sources of funding to be used to  
14 facilitate recovery programs for threatened species; and

15           WHEREAS, the department of game and fish has altered its  
16 implementation of the directives of the Wildlife Conservation  
17 Act, including the directive to develop and implement recovery  
18 plans for listed species and the directive to actively seek  
19 funding to support conservation and recovery of threatened and  
20 endangered species;

21           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative  
23 finance committee be requested to conduct an expeditious  
24 performance evaluation of the department of game and fish,  
25 including evaluation of the department's resources and policies

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1 and its compliance with the Wildlife Conservation Act and other  
2 applicable state laws related to wildlife and ecosystem  
3 management and protection; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of the  
5 legislative finance committee's performance evaluation of the  
6 department of game and fish be presented in a report to the  
7 department of game and fish and to appropriate legislative  
8 interim committees and be made available to the general public  
9 via publication of the report on the web site of the department  
10 of game and fish; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance  
12 committee be requested to adopt additional performance measures  
13 to be used to evaluate the department of game and fish; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the additional performance  
15 measures include:

16 A. the number of hours department staff members  
17 devoted to working specifically on threatened and endangered  
18 species during the current and previous five calendar years;

19 B. a list of species recovery plans currently in  
20 development by the department;

21 C. the progress of the department's implementation  
22 of programs initiated by the department that relate to wildlife  
23 and ecosystem management and protection;

24 D. the habitat restoration efforts undertaken by  
25 the department to specifically benefit threatened and

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1 endangered species;

2 E. identification of current funding used by the  
3 department to support recovery and management of threatened and  
4 endangered species;

5 F. the activities currently being undertaken by the  
6 department to identify species that might warrant protection;

7 G. the efforts currently being undertaken by the  
8 department to help achieve sufficient populations and habitats  
9 so species will not be listed as endangered pursuant to state  
10 or federal laws;

11 H. the funding and grants that the department has  
12 sought and is currently seeking to work on restoration and  
13 recovery programs related to the Wildlife Conservation Act and  
14 other applicable New Mexico statutes related to wildlife and  
15 ecosystem management;

16 I. the department's participation in multi-agency  
17 conservation efforts; and

18 J. the status of the department's biennial review,  
19 required by the Wildlife Conservation Act, of the state's list  
20 of threatened and endangered species; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the director of the department of game and fish,  
23 the legislative finance committee and the state game  
24 commission.

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