

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT AN INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE STUDY THE
WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT TO DETERMINE WHETHER NEW MEXICO
SHOULD JOIN THE COMPACT.

WHEREAS, crossing state lines offers refuge for wildlife
law violators wishing to continue their illegal desecration
of wildlife, and it is important for New Mexico to cooperate
with other states in order to apprehend and prosecute
poachers, especially commercial poachers; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Violator Compact is an agreement
that has been enacted by ten states, Arizona, Colorado,
Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, West
Virginia and Wyoming, and the international association of
fish and wildlife agencies is encouraging all fifty states to
join this compact; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Violator Compact helps eliminate

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1 the illegal sale and possession of animal parts used in the
2 black market; and

3 WHEREAS, by joining the Wildlife Violator Compact, the
4 New Mexico department of game and fish would have access to
5 information from participating states about previous wildlife
6 violations by persons who are applying for hunting and
7 fishing licenses in New Mexico; and

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

12 WHEREAS, the mobility of many wildlife law violators
13 necessitates the maintenance of channels of communication
14 among the various states, and Wildlife Violator Compact
15 member states can enforce wildlife laws to stop poachers from
16 trying to avoid being caught by crossing state lines; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, joining the Wildlife Violator Compact would

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1 help provide protection for game species as well as
2 threatened and endangered species in New Mexico; and
3 WHEREAS, poaching of wildlife is unethical; and
4 WHEREAS, a relationship has been found by the New Mexico
5 department of game and fish between poaching of wildlife and
6 drug trafficking; and
7 WHEREAS, wildlife resources are managed in trust by the
8 respective states for the benefit of all residents and
9 visitors, and joining the Wildlife Violator Compact would
10 benefit all New Mexico residents and visitors because
11 violation of wildlife laws interferes with the management of
12 wildlife, which contributes immeasurably to the aesthetic,
13 recreational and economic aspects of our state; and
14 WHEREAS, for the sake of our children and future
15 generations wildlife should be protected from poaching,
16 especially commercial poaching;
17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that an interim committee of the New
19 Mexico state legislature study the Wildlife Violator Compact
20 as soon as possible in order to determine whether New Mexico
21 should join this compact; and
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that wild friends students
23 participating in the writing of this memorial have an
24 opportunity to participate in the legislative committee
25 hearing by offering their testimonials.