



The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2008

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE MEMORIAL 28

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Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM "BILL" R. REHM AND REPRESENTATIVE AL PARK



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE  
3 FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A STATE AUTHORITY TO COMBAT THE  
4 PROBLEM OF AUTOMOBILE THEFT IN NEW MEXICO.

5  
6 WHEREAS, according to crime data from the federal bureau  
7 of investigation, there were over nine thousand offenses of  
8 motor vehicle theft committed in New Mexico in 2006, and the  
9 number of motor vehicle thefts per one hundred thousand New  
10 Mexicans is four hundred seventy-three; and

11 WHEREAS, automobile thieves use stolen vehicles to sell  
12 automobile parts on the highly profitable illegal parts market  
13 and to export automobile components and intact vehicles to  
14 other states and countries; and

15 WHEREAS, stolen automobiles are also used as  
16 instrumentalities in violent crimes, drug offenses, theft and  
17 gang activities; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexicans are at a particular risk of  
19 automobile theft because of New Mexico's proximity to the  
20 international border and the state's rapidly increasing rates  
21 of trafficking and using methamphetamine, which is a criminal-  
22 lifestyle drug that fuels a broad range of criminal activity,  
23 including automobile theft, forgery, credit card fraud,  
24 identity theft, mail theft, burglary and shoplifting; and

25 WHEREAS, automobile theft is a statewide problem that

1 requires greater cooperation among the state's law enforcement  
2 agencies and district attorneys, the motor vehicle insurance  
3 industry, community organizations and business organizations;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, enhanced statewide coordination among law  
6 enforcement agencies across the state, including the sharing  
7 of information regarding automobile theft "hot spots", would  
8 enhance law enforcement's ability to track automobile theft  
9 rings, develop a statewide strategy for the arrest of  
10 automobile theft offenders and track auto theft across state  
11 lines; and

12 WHEREAS, many of New Mexico's neighboring states in the  
13 southwest region have established automobile theft prevention  
14 authorities for the purpose of combating, preventing and  
15 investigating automobile theft, including Colorado, Arizona  
16 and Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, automobile theft prevention authorities in  
18 those states use various mechanisms to combat automobile  
19 theft, such as implementing community education and public  
20 awareness programs as well as providing grants to law  
21 enforcement agencies to improve cooperation, establish  
22 automobile theft investigative units and employ specialized  
23 training;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor

1 be requested to convene a task force to study the feasibility  
2 of creating a state authority to combat the problem of  
3 automobile theft in New Mexico; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task  
5 force include the attorney general or the attorney general's  
6 designee; the secretary of public safety or the secretary's  
7 designee; the director of the motor vehicle division of the  
8 taxation and revenue department or the director's designee;  
9 representatives of local law enforcement agencies across the  
10 state, including representatives from both the metropolitan  
11 and rural areas of New Mexico; a representative from the  
12 administrative office of the district attorneys; and  
13 representatives from the automobile insurance industry; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work of the task force  
15 include the following:

16 A. a review of automobile theft prevention  
17 authorities in other states that may serve as models for New  
18 Mexico;

19 B. an evaluation of the programs and initiatives  
20 of automobile theft prevention authorities in other states,  
21 including programs and initiatives related to community  
22 education, public awareness, statewide vehicle registration,  
23 specialized training for law enforcement agencies, coordinated  
24 communication among law enforcement agencies and support for  
25 investigative units and complex automobile theft prosecutions;

1 and

2 C. a review of cost estimates for the creation and  
3 operation of an automobile theft prevention authority in New  
4 Mexico; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present a  
6 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
7 recommendations for proposed legislation, to the interim  
8 legislative courts, corrections and justice committee no later  
9 than November 1, 2008; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the governor and the co-chairs of the interim  
12 legislative courts, corrections and justice committee.

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S/ BEN LUJAN  
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ STEPHEN R. ARIAS  
STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES