



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2008

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 53, as amended

Introduced by

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



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE MOTOR
3 VEHICLE DIVISION OF THE TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO
4 STUDY THE INCREASING PROBLEM OF AUTO THEFT IN NEW MEXICO.

5
6 WHEREAS, the federal bureau of investigation reports
7 that every twenty-six seconds, a motor vehicle is stolen in
8 the United States, with western states accounting for the
9 largest share of auto theft; and

10 WHEREAS, only twelve and six-tenths percent of auto
11 thefts were cleared by arrest in 2006; and

12 WHEREAS, the number of auto thefts increased in New
13 Mexico by fifteen and four-tenths percent in 2006, with over
14 nine thousand vehicles reported stolen, while nationwide the
15 number of auto thefts decreased by three and four-tenths
16 percent; and

17 WHEREAS, out of three hundred sixty-one metropolitan
18 areas studied in 2006, Albuquerque had the thirteenth-highest
19 rate of auto thefts, which increased by forty-five percent
20 from 2006; and

21 WHEREAS, stolen vehicles are being used in the
22 commission of other crimes and are increasingly being used to
23 assault peace officers; and

24 WHEREAS, in January 2008, the extreme home makeover
25 reality show, while building a new home for an Albuquerque

1 family, had its Ford F-550 truck and the tools in the truck
2 stolen, the very first theft experienced by that show; and

3 WHEREAS, persons committing auto theft are becoming more
4 organized and knowledgeable, changing vehicle identification
5 numbers, obtaining titles and registrations under false
6 pretense and dismantling vehicles for their components; and

7 WHEREAS, current vehicle title and registration laws
8 allow for deceptive practices with regard to the ownership and
9 identification numbers of vehicles;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
12 of public safety and the director of the motor vehicle
13 division of the taxation and revenue department be requested
14 to assemble a task force that includes representatives from
15 local law enforcement agencies, motor vehicle insurance
16 providers or agents, the attorney general's office, the
17 district attorneys' association and other relevant or
18 interested parties to conduct a comprehensive study of the
19 problem of auto theft in New Mexico, including the dismantling
20 of vehicles for their components, the illegal exporting of
21 stolen vehicles and the changing of vehicle identification
22 numbers in order to sell stolen vehicles, and to make
23 recommendations on changes to the law or regulations as
24 necessary; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force examine

1 current certificate of title laws and procedures in New Mexico
2 and make recommendations on how these laws or procedures can
3 be enhanced to thwart deceptive practices by car thieves and
4 their accomplices; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report on its
6 study and recommendations to the appropriate interim
7 legislative committee during the 2008 interim and no later
8 than November 1, 2008; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the secretary of public safety and the director
11 of the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue
12 department.

S/ BEN LUJAN
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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