

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3022
(Representatives Drovdal, Hanson, Porter)
(Senators Lyson, Wardner)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the use of incentive programs in North Dakota as a way of keeping elk in the state and providing increased opportunities for landowners, hunters, and the general public.

WHEREAS, on at least two separate occasions within the last ten years, "surplus" elk have been exported from the state of North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, under current elk management regulations, the vast majority of the people of North Dakota have only a once-in-a-lifetime chance of getting a permit to hunt elk within the state; and

WHEREAS, the strong demand for elk permits was clearly evident in the year 2000 when there were 11,951 applications received by the Game and Fish Department and only 204 permits made available; and

WHEREAS, exportation of elk from the state denies our residents the future opportunity to hunt, observe, and otherwise benefit from these majestic animals; and

WHEREAS, the elk population of the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park periodically exceeds acceptable carrying capacity based upon National Park Service guidelines, thus forcing a determination of where to translocate "surplus" animals; and

WHEREAS, there are tens of thousands of acres of public land in North Dakota with suitable habitat to which "surplus" elk could be translocated; and

WHEREAS, there exists a memorandum of understanding between the National Park Service, the Game and Fish Department, and other agencies that gives the Game and Fish Department the first option to accept management of said "surplus" elk; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of states that have designed and implemented custom-tailored programs with incentives to facilitate acceptable solutions to wildlife management issues such as the "surplus" elk issue in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the people of North Dakota strongly value their hunting heritage, as evidenced by an overwhelming 80 percent approval of the recent amendment to the Constitution of North Dakota related to that heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Legislative Council study the use of incentive programs implemented in other states that would allow the retention of "surplus" elk and also benefit other wildlife species, incentive programs to enhance landowner tolerance of wildlife and to provide economic benefit opportunities to landowners while increasing access to private land for public hunting, effectiveness of incentive programs to foster a spirit of cooperation between landowners, sportsmen, and regulatory agencies in collaborative wildlife management efforts, and disease concerns associated with the translocation of free ranging wildlife; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State