

ENGROSSED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1007

By: Leist of the House

and

Shurden of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution directing the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to establish a bat conservation program; stating purposes of the program; directing the Department to establish a bat management program for privately owned land; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, bats, the only flying mammal, have a unique and well developed echolocation system which enable them to maneuver around objects in their path and capture tiny flying insects; and

WHEREAS, all bats in Oklahoma feed on insects such as moths, mosquitoes, june beetles, leafhoppers and scorpions, and can, in some cases, consume more than 3,000 mosquitoes in a single night; and

WHEREAS, there are 22 species of bats which are found in the state; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, scientists have noted serious population declines in several species of bats which are found in the state, including three species on the federal list of endangered species and three candidate species; and

WHEREAS, the main causes for the decline in bat populations are due to loss of habitat, vandalism and pesticides; and

WHEREAS, bats are a valuable resource and benefit to the state and contribute to the state through their ability to control insect pests which is important to the overall ecology of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of managing and protecting all species of bats which are found in this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature requests the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to establish a program for the conservation of the several bat species which inhabit the state, to be implemented through the Nongame Wildlife Improvement Program.

THAT the purpose of the bat conservation program shall be to preserve, protect, perpetuate and enhance bat populations in this state, to educate the public on the importance of bats and to study a means of reversing the decline in bat populations due to loss of habitat, vandalism and pesticides.

THAT in order to encourage bat conservation on private land, the Oklahoma Legislature requests the Department of Wildlife Conservation to establish a program for bat habitat development, preservation, restoration and management on private lands. Under the program, the Department may work with landowners on conservation efforts and may enter into agreements with landowners for approved projects on privately owned land. The agreement shall detail the landowners' responsibilities for implementing the projects.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 6th day of March, 1995.

of Speaker of the House

Representative

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Adopted by the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1995.

Senate

President of the