

ENROLLED SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 60 By: Bell, Brown, Cain, Campbell, Capps, Cole, Dickerson, Douglass, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Haney, Harrison, Helton, Hendrick, Henry, Herbert, Hobson, Horner, Kerr, Leftwich, Littlefield, Long (Ed), Long (Lewis), Maddox, Martin, Mickle, Monson, Muegge, Pierce, Price, Roberts, Robinson, Rozell, Shedrick, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Stipe, Taylor, Weedn, Wilkerson, Williams (Don), Williams (Penny) and Wright

A Resolution relating to commercial turtle harvesting; requesting the Department of Wildlife Conservation to assess the turtle population and how other states manage commercial turtle harvesting; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature has authorized the commercial harvesting of turtles in all waters of the state; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised about the effects such harvesting might have on the overall turtle population; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has no firm figures or studies available on the statewide turtle population; and

WHEREAS, management of wildlife populations should be done on the basis of sound scientific data.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma Senate requests the Department of Wildlife Conservation to take necessary steps to:

1. Assess the state turtle population, in consideration of breeding habits and repopulation abilities;
2. Assess how commercial turtle harvesting is managed or regulated by other states having similar species and climate; and
3. Work with interested state institutions of higher education willing to lend their expertise.

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

Adopted by the Senate the 28th day of May, 1996.

President of the Senate