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HOUSE MEMORIAL 42

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

John Block and Stefani Lord

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING DIDELPHIS VIRGINIANA, THE VIRGINIA OPOSSUM, AS AN
IMPORTANT NATIVE MARSUPIAL.

WHEREAS, the Virginia opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*, is
the only species of marsupial native to North America,
including New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, opossums play a vital role in New Mexico's
ecosystem by controlling pests, such as ticks, insects and
rodents; and

WHEREAS, these resilient animals are highly adaptable and
thrive in both rural and urban environments across the state;
and

WHEREAS, opossums have immune system advantages, including
a high resistance to venom from snakes and a reduced likelihood
of contracting rabies, making them a unique and beneficial

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species;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Virginia opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*, be recognized as an important part of the state's diverse wildlife and that conservation awareness be encouraged, particularly as it affects this unique marsupial; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of environment and to the members of the New Mexico house of representatives.