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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC WATERS; AMENDING A SECTION OF CHAPTER 17  
NMSA 1978; DEFINING THE SCOPE OF EASEMENT CREATED BY  
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS REGARDING OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC  
WATERS, BENEFICIAL USE OF PUBLIC WATERS AND THE RIGHT TO  
ACQUIRE, OWN AND PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR  
LAWFUL RECREATIONAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC WATERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 17-4-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1912,  
Chapter 85, Section 10, as amended) is amended to read:

"17-4-6. HUNTING AND FISHING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY--  
POSTING--PENALTY.--

A. Whenever the owner or lessee desires to protect  
or propagate game birds, animals or fish within the owner's  
or lessee's enclosure or pasture, the owner or lessee shall  
publish notices in English and Spanish warning all persons  
not to hunt or fish within the enclosure or pasture. The  
notices shall be posted in at least six conspicuous places on  
the premises and published for three consecutive weeks in a  
newspaper of general circulation in the county where the  
premises are situated. In the event a public road enters or  
crosses the enclosure or pasture, an additional notice shall  
be posted conspicuously within three hundred yards of the  
point where each public road enters the posted property.

1           B. After the publication and posting, it is a  
2 misdemeanor for any person to enter the premises for the  
3 purpose of hunting or fishing or to kill or injure any bird,  
4 animal or fish within the enclosure or pasture without  
5 permission of the owner or lessee.

6           C. No person engaged in hunting, fishing,  
7 trapping, camping, hiking, sightseeing, the operation of  
8 watercraft or any other recreational use shall walk or wade  
9 onto private property through non-navigable public water or  
10 access public water via private property unless the private  
11 property owner or lessee or person in control of private  
12 lands has expressly consented in writing.

13           D. Nothing in this act shall be interpreted to  
14 affect or influence whether a water is a navigable water or a  
15 water of the United States for purposes of the federal Clean  
16 Water Act of 1977, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq."

17           SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
18 provisions of this act is July 1, 2015. \_\_\_\_\_

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