

1 HOUSE BILL 197

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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5 and Patricia A. Lundstrom  
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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO FISHING; INCREASING THE TIME FOR FREE FISHING DAYS  
12 DESIGNATED BY THE STATE GAME COMMISSION FROM SATURDAYS TO  
13 WEEKENDS.  
14

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

16 SECTION 1. Section 17-3-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1964  
17 (1st S.S.), Chapter 17, Section 8, as amended) is amended to  
18 read:

19 "17-3-17. FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE--EXCEPTIONS.--

20 A. It is a misdemeanor for any person, except  
21 children who have not reached their twelfth birthday, to take  
22 or attempt to take any game fish from any public stream or  
23 water in this state without carrying a proper fishing license  
24 as provided by law. The presence of any person, except  
25 children who have not reached their twelfth birthday, along any

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1 public stream or water in this state with fishing rod, hook or  
2 line, without carrying a proper fishing license, is prima facie  
3 evidence of the violation of this section. The director of the  
4 department of game and fish or any conservation officer may  
5 require any person along any public stream or water in this  
6 state with fishing rod, hook or line to exhibit the person's  
7 license.

8 B. The director, with the approval of the state  
9 game commission, may designate no more than two nonconsecutive  
10 ~~[Saturdays]~~ two-day weekends in each year as free fishing days.  
11 During the free fishing days, residents and nonresidents may  
12 exercise the privileges of holders of proper fishing licenses  
13 without having proper fishing licenses and without payment of  
14 any license fees, subject to all limitations, restrictions,  
15 conditions, laws, rules and regulations applicable to holders  
16 of proper fishing licenses.

17 C. The director may designate, by special permit,  
18 fishing events during which the requirement for a fishing  
19 license or permit pursuant to Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 is waived  
20 exclusively for designated event participants. During the  
21 special permitted events, residents and nonresidents may  
22 exercise only the privileges as allowed by the director. The  
23 director's special permit shall substitute for the requirement  
24 of any license or permit pursuant to Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, and  
25 no payment of any license fee is required. The director's

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1 special permit shall be for a period of no longer than three  
2 days, and all other laws and rules shall apply."

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