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HOUSE BILL 22

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 200

INTRODUCED BY

Stevan E. Pearce

FOR THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER; PROVIDING FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION IN ADJUDICATION OF WATER RIGHTS.

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

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 72, Article 4 NMSA
1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] WATER RIGHTS ADJUDICATION--USE OF
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR SETTLEMENT.--The state
engineer shall adopt procedures providing the opportunity for
alternative dispute resolution of disputes involving the
state engineer to all persons claiming to own water rights or
parties in a water rights adjudication. Alternative dispute
resolution may include negotiation conferences, mediation and
arbitration. A settlement negotiated through alternative
dispute resolution and filed with the state engineer shall be
binding on the settling parties upon approval by the district
court."

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