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SENATE BILL 145

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Dede Feldman

AN ACT

RELATING TO GAME AND FISH; PROVIDING FOR A GAINING ACCESS INTO
NATURE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE GAME COMMISSION;
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 17, Article 4 NMSA
1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] GAINING ACCESS INTO NATURE PROGRAM -
POLICY-- ADDITIONAL POWERS OF STATE GAME COMMISSION. --

A. It is the policy of the state of New Mexico to
encourage and promote wildlife-associated recreation in New
Mexico and to provide for public participation in the use of
available natural resources in a manner that will benefit the
general public in its enjoyment of public assets and the state
and its political subdivisions in increased economic

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underscored material = new
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1 development.

2 B. To implement the state policy, the state game
3 commission shall develop and administer a "gaining access into
4 nature program" pursuant to the provisions of this section.

5 C. In addition to its other powers, in order to
6 develop and administer the gaining access into nature program,
7 the state game commission may:

8 (1) designate areas and properties under its
9 control where activities other than hunting, fishing and
10 trapping are available to the public;

11 (2) designate activities that may take place
12 on properties under its control and designate conditions and
13 qualifications for the activities;

14 (3) enter into partnership and joint powers
15 agreements, leases and other contractual arrangements with
16 other state agencies, private landowners and other private
17 entities to jointly administer, promote and expand the gaining
18 access into nature program;

19 (4) issue permits, special use licenses and
20 other authorizations for access to individuals and
21 organizations to access state game commission properties for
22 purposes of participating in gaining access into nature
23 programs and charge fees for the access privileges; provided
24 that the fees do not exceed the reasonable costs associated
25 with developing and administering the gaining access into

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underscored material = new
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1 nature program;

2 (5) engage in public outreach programs to
3 identify through public meetings, surveys and educational
4 programs the interests of the public that may be best served by
5 the gaining access into nature program;

6 (6) adopt such rules as it deems necessary for
7 programs, events or other activities to properly implement the
8 goals and the administration of the gaining access into nature
9 program; and

10 (7) subject to appropriation by the
11 legislature, expend money from the game protection fund
12 necessary to develop and administer the gaining access into
13 nature program, including:

14 (a) the reasonable costs of improving
15 habitat and properties in order to make them suitable for the
16 public uses intended;

17 (b) costs of personnel necessary to
18 service the properties being used for the program and to
19 provide informational and interpretive services on the
20 properties;

21 (c) the reasonable costs of maintenance
22 and repair of habitat and properties being used for public
23 access under the provisions of this section; and

24 (d) costs associated with issuing
25 permits, licenses and other authorizations for access.

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