



State of New Mexico

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OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

Susana Martinez
Governor

April 8, 2011

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 57

The Honorable Timothy Z. Jennings, President Pro Tempore
And Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear President Pro Tempore Jennings and Members of the Senate:

I have this day SIGNED:

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL
196, as amended

enacted by the Fiftieth Legislature, First Session, 2011.

I am supportive of SENATE BILL 196 which expands hunting opportunities for New Mexico residents by increasing the number of licenses available for big-game hunts on public lands.

This is a sensible provision which brings New Mexico's split between the issuance of resident and non-resident licenses into closer alignment with other states.

However, my concern with this bill is that the language is ambiguous and could lead some to wrongly conclude that an individual must purchase a general hunting license even if he or she does not successfully draw for a hunt. Under the current system, anyone who wishes to apply to hunt for big game must pay an \$8 administrative fee and a licensing deposit. If the applicant's name is not drawn to hunt big game, the cost of their license is fully refunded. For a family of four, current law would require them to pay thirty-two dollars to enter the big-game lottery. If the ambiguous language is interpreted incorrectly, this bill could require that same family to pay ninety-two dollars—nearly tripling the cost — regardless of whether or not they actually hunt that year.

To address this concern, I am writing this signing message and directing the Department of Game and Fish to devise, through the rule-making process, a method by which an

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individual can apply for a big-game license without paying an additional \$15 fee should the applicant not be drawn in a big-game lottery.

I am signing this bill because I support increasing the opportunities for New Mexicans to hunt big-game on public lands without affecting private-landowner tags. Landowners provide a valuable service by improving New Mexico habitat for wild game, resulting in greater and sustainable hunting opportunities throughout the state. I will oppose any efforts that would seek to erode or dissolve this important partnership.

Respectfully yours,



Susana Martinez
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: 12:03 a.m. (p.m.)
Date: April 8 2011

By Patricia L. Romero
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.
Date: _____ 2011

By _____
Chief Clerk of the Senate