

AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE AGENCIES; CREATING EXCEPTIONS TO THE PROHIBITION ON SPOTLIGHTING LAND WHERE BIG GAME OR DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK RESIDE.

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

Section 1. Section 17-2-31 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1951, Chapter 171, Section 1) is amended to read:

"17-2-31. USE OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT WHILE HUNTING PROHIBITED.--It is unlawful for a person or a group of persons together in possession or control of a firearm or other implement to throw or cast the rays of a spotlight or other artificial light into any field, pasture, woodland, forest or prairie where big game or domestic livestock may be, or are reasonably expected to be, whereby any big game animal or domestic animal could be killed by aid of an artificial light. However, the following shall be exempt from the provisions of this section:

A. an officer authorized to enforce the game and livestock laws of the state;

B. a government employee acting in an official capacity;

C. a landowner or lessee or employee of such landowner or lessee, while on the land owned or leased in connection with legitimate activities; or

D. a person who has received a permit or authorization from the department of game and fish to conduct such activities."

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