

SB2144 – This bill does not add a new level of no-trespass for hunters and anglers. It provides landowners the protection from criminal trespass for fenced land. In the past, signs have been removed by protesters making it difficult for county States Attorneys to prosecute trespass violators. This change in law helps protect those landowner rights. However, with the ~~an~~ **exemption for hunting or angling**, the fenced land still needs to be physically posted for hunting following current state law or electronically posted.

Electronic posting would become an **option** for landowners/operators to post their land. Either a physical sign or electronic posting will be available. If they want to use both methods they may do so.

The pilot showed that electronic posting works for landowners and eliminates the cost and time for posting. Making fenced land automatically posted for criminal trespass provides added protection for landowners. The hunting and angling exemption does not increase the level of no-trespass for sportsmen.

The pilot showed that electronic posting works for hunters allowing access to electronically post land via smartphone, Garmin type electronics, or downloadable/printable maps. Hunters and anglers will need to make sure they are not hunting on electronically posted land either by using their smartphone or other devices as they look for places to hunt or by downloading and printing a map for the NDGF web site. Many of today's hunters are watching their Garmin or smartphone as they drive around looking for a place to hunt. They will instantaneously know if a parcel is electronically posted. If not electronically posted they will still need to look for signs as they do now. Hunters will need to plan ahead to make sure they have downloaded the map to their phone or other device if they don't have service. Or they can print out a map of the area they plan on hunting. This is an inconvenience but one I believe today's hunters and anglers can easily overcome.

SB2144 is a better alternative than a no-trespass law in ND. Landowners/operators, that don't want to post and make their land available to hunting or fishing, do not have to do anything if SB2144 passes. Business as usual.

SB2144 provides added protection for criminal trespass for landowners/operators for fenced land. Since landowners groups have always said **no-trespass legislation is not about hunting it is about private landowner rights, this** bill follows those guidelines by allowing for an exemption for hunting and angling on fenced land. **David Dewald, President of North Dakota Wildlife Federation**