

1 SENATE BILL NO. 169

2 INTRODUCED BY D. MAHLUM

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT LANDOWNER PERMISSION IS REQUIRED
5 FOR HUNTING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY IF THE PROPERTY IS POSTED WITH SIGNS IDENTIFYING THE
6 LANDOWNER, THE LANDOWNER'S LESSEE, OR THEIR AGENT; AMENDING SECTION 87-3-304, MCA;
7 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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9 WHEREAS, the act of hunting on private land is a privilege and not a right; and
10 WHEREAS, it is common courtesy to ask permission before entering private property; and
11 WHEREAS, increased communication normally leads to less confrontation; and
12 WHEREAS, communication depends on hunters being able to identify landowners, lessees, or agents;

13 and

14 WHEREAS, with increased hunting pressure placed on private land, it is essential to maintain good
15 rapport between landowners and hunters.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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19 **Section 1.** Section 87-3-304, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"87-3-304. Landowner's permission required for hunting -- penalty.** (1) Every resident and
21 nonresident must have obtained permission of the landowner, the landowner's lessee, or their agents before
22 taking or attempting to take nongame wildlife or predatory animals or hunting on private property if the
23 landowner, landowner's lessee, or agent is identified on signs near property corners along public roads and on
24 any unfenced boundaries with public land.

25 (2) Except for hunting big game animals on private property, a person who violates this section shall,
26 upon conviction for a first offense, be fined an amount not to exceed \$25."

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28 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2003.

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