

Honorable members of the State Administration Committee:

My name is Terry Tyler, the originator, designer, longest serving guardian, officially appointed overseer of the Montana Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial since its very establishment, and author of HB-427 rendering it State Recognition in 1991.

In 1991, the collective criminal justice professional associations of Montana, through its Board of Directors of the Montana Law Enforcement Museum, Inc. comprised of official representatives of these associations, and they alone, asked the Montana Legislature and Governor to grant the State's official recognition to their very and solely own Montana Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial. HB427 was unanimously passed by both House and Senate and signed by the Governor, taking effect immediately to create MCA 22-3-701.

The common knowledge and understood intent of that legislation was that "The memorial in the Montana law enforcement museum ... is designated as this state's official law enforcement memorial," that is, the memorial located in Montana law enforcement community's museum. The bill's designation was not intended to designate any other physical site or location other than the Montana Law Enforcement Museum, and the addition of "the old prison, Deer Lodge," was not in any way meant as a "designation" or to be any restriction to the Memorial or the Museum, but only to serve as an "address" at the time. Nothing more.

SB-73 is a clarification to this fact.

The Montana Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was created and exists exclusively for the honoring and remembrance of Montana's once forgotten law enforcement professionals slain in the Line of Duty while serving, protecting and assisting their communities.

This memorial, which received the designation of also being the State of Montana's official memorial, was at the time of its designation and remains to this day the sole legal property of the entire law enforcement community across the State of Montana through their own Montana Law Enforcement Museum, Inc.

I therefore ask for your support in passage of this clarification bill, SB-73.

Thank you.