

HOUSE BILL NO. 711

INTRODUCED BY R. JORE

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT ALL WATER RIGHT CLAIMS THAT WERE EXEMPT FROM THE CLAIMS FILING REQUIREMENTS ARE VESTED; AND AMENDING SECTION 85-2-222, MCA."

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

**Section 1.** Section 85-2-222, MCA, is amended to read:

**"85-2-222. Exemptions.** Claims for existing rights for livestock and individual as opposed to municipal domestic uses based upon instream flow or ground water sources and claims for rights in the Powder River basin included in a declaration filed pursuant to the order of the department or a district court issued under sections 8 and 9 of Chapter 452, Laws of 1973, or under sections 3 and 4 of Chapter 485, Laws of 1975, are exempt from the filing requirements of 85-2-221(1) and are vested. Such However, these claims may, ~~however,~~ be voluntarily filed with the department."

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