

SENATE BILL NO. 58

INTRODUCED BY K. HANSEN

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REPEALING THE TERMINATION DATE REGARDING THE DESIGNATION OF PRAIRIE DOGS AS NONGAME WILDLIFE IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE CONTINUED COORDINATED MANAGEMENT OF PRAIRIE DOGS AS NONGAME WILDLIFE AND AS VERTEBRATE PESTS OR RODENTS; REPEALING SECTION 3, CHAPTER 521, LAWS OF 2001; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Legislature designated prairie dogs as nongame wildlife until October 1, 2007, in order to provide for temporary coordinated management of the species by counties and by the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation, and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks while affirming landowners' prerogative to control prairie dog concentrations on private lands; and

WHEREAS, under the authority granted by the Legislature in 2001, the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation, and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks developed and are implementing a coordinated management plan for prairie dogs that ensures the viability of the species while maintaining private landowners' ability to control prairie dogs; and

WHEREAS, repeal of the 2007 termination date will allow continuing effective coordinated management of prairie dogs by the state and counties on a permanent basis while retaining the ability of landowners to control prairie dogs on private lands.

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Repealer.** Section 3, Chapter 521, Laws of 2001, is repealed.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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