

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 447

2 INTRODUCED BY B. HARRIS

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DECLARING ED MCGIVERN AS THE OFFICIAL STATE SHOOTER;
5 ESTABLISHING SEPTEMBER 13 OF EACH YEAR AS ED MCGIVERN DAY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
6 DATE."

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8 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern (October 20, 1874 - December 12, 1957) lived in Lewistown and Great Falls,
9 Montana; and

10 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern was an ordinary, unpretentious man who made his living painting signs; and

11 WHEREAS, most Montanans have not heard of Ed McGivern or of his accomplishments as a Montanan;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern was a nationally recognized exhibition revolver shooter (both double-action
14 and single-action); and

15 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern was a pioneer in scientifically investigating and documenting the capabilities
16 of the revolver and in developing his own shooting methods and timing devices; and

17 WHEREAS, numerous articles by Ed McGivern and about him were published in "Guns", "Guns
18 Quarterly", "American Rifleman", "Western Wildlife", "Sports Afield", "Outdoor Life", "True West", "Adventure",
19 "All Western Magazine", "Voice of the Sportsman", "Denver Post Empire", "Lewistown News Argus", "Great Falls
20 Tribune", "Shooting Times", and "Life Magazine"; and

21 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern is renowned as one of the best handgunners that ever lived; and

22 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern authored the book "Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting", published in 1938;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern trained Montana law enforcement and Federal Bureau of Investigation officers
25 in revolver shooting; and

26 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern was appointed Colonel, Ballistic Corps, Ordnance Department of the Montana
27 National Guard by Governor Roy Ayers in December 1940, was an honorary member of the Montana Highway
28 Patrol and the Lewistown Police Department, was a member of the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers
29 Association, was a member of the Montana Police Protective Association, and was a life member of the Ed
30 McGivern Pistol Club in Great Falls; and

1 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern set many shooting records with the revolver; and

2 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern shot with factory double-action revolvers that were unmodified except for his
3 famous McGivern gold bead front sight; and

4 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern's speed record (set several times) for shooting five shots from a double-action
5 revolver in 2/5 of a second with all shots in the area of a playing card at 15 feet has never been equaled; and

6 WHEREAS, this rate of fire is greater than the cyclical rate of the AK-47 automatic rifle; and

7 WHEREAS, this record was set when Ed McGivern was 58 years old; and

8 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern could shoot two double-action revolvers simultaneously from the left and right
9 hands in 1 1/5 seconds and keep both five-shot groups within the area of a playing card at 15 feet; with the draw
10 included, he could do the same in 1 1/2 seconds; and

11 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern could empty two double-action revolvers, one after the other in less than 2
12 seconds; and

13 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern excelled in aerial shooting with a double-action revolver; and

14 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern broke six simultaneously hand-thrown aerial clay targets with a double-action
15 revolver at the Central Montana Fair in Lewistown in 1932 and could shoot a can thrown 20 feet in the air six
16 times; and

17 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern was known as a firearms expert and testified in at least 37 trials involving
18 firearms between 1914 and 1943.

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

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22 NEW SECTION. Section 1. State shooter. (1) Ed McGivern, a nationally recognized exhibition revolver
23 shooter who lived in Lewistown and Great Falls and who was a pioneer in scientifically investigating and
24 documenting the capabilities of the revolver, is the official state shooter of Montana.

25 (2) September 13 of each year is declared as Ed McGivern day in recognition of Ed McGivern's many
26 extraordinary shooting accomplishments, contributions to law enforcement, and efforts in advancing the
27 capabilities of firearms.

28 (3) On September 13 of each year, the legislature encourages the governor, the Montana historical
29 society, all people, cities, counties, and nonprofit and community-based organizations to honor Ed McGivern with
30 ceremonies and activities each considers most appropriate.

