

## HOUSE BILL NO. 176

INTRODUCED BY KARY, C. SMITH, SALOMON, BROWN, CUFFE, BALLYEAT, ESSMANN, SKEES,  
GREEF, REGIER, KNOX, OLSON, BLYTON, ROSENDALE, LEWIS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A PERSON WITH A LIFE-THREATENING  
ILLNESS MAY RECEIVE A ~~FREE~~, ONE-TIME ANTELOPE LICENSE; ESTABLISHING TERMS AND  
CONDITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 87-2-706, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 87-2-706, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-2-706. Drawing for special antelope licenses -- free licenses for those with life-threatening illness.** (1) In the event that the number of valid applications for special antelope licenses for a hunting district exceeds the quota set by the department for the district, the licenses must be awarded by a drawing. The department shall provide for those persons making valid application for special antelope licenses a method of selecting first, second, and third choice hunting districts for any drawing held pursuant to this section.

(2) The department shall reserve for applicants who are nonambulatory and have a permanent physical disability, as determined by the department, up to 25 of the total special antelope licenses authorized for sale in the state, excepting those licenses issued pursuant to 87-2-803(5), for use in the district designated by the commission. If the number of valid disabled applicants exceeds the number of licenses available, the department may hold a drawing in which all applicants have an equal chance of being selected.

(3) (a) The department may issue a free special antelope license to a resident or nonresident who has been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness unless the person qualifies for a license pursuant to 87-2-805. As used in this subsection, "life-threatening illness" means any progressive, degenerative, or malignant disease or condition that results in a significant threat, likelihood, or certainty that the person's life expectancy will not extend more than 1 year from the date of the request for the ~~free~~ license unless the course of the disease is interrupted or abated.

(b) To qualify for the free license, the department must receive documentation that person has been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness from a licensed physician.

(c) The free license may be issued on a one-time basis for one hunting season.

1            (d) In exercising hunting privileges, the person must conduct all hunting within the terms and conditions  
2 of the license issued.

3            (e) The department may issue up to 25 licenses pursuant to this subsection (3) annually. These licenses  
4 do not count against any quota set by the department. Licenses issued pursuant to this subsection (3) do not  
5 count against the number of special antelope licenses reserved for people with permanent disabilities as provided  
6 in subsection (2).

7            ~~(3)~~(4) The department may promulgate rules that are necessary to implement this section."

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

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