

HOUSE BILL NO. 475

INTRODUCED BY P. CONNELL

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A TRAPPER

5 SAFETY AND EDUCATION COURSE AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A CLASS C RESIDENT

6 TRAPPING LICENSE; PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-2-102 AND 87-2-105, MCA;

7 AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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11 **Section 1.** Section 87-2-102, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"87-2-102. Resident defined.** In determining whether a person is a resident for the purpose of issuing

13 resident hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, the following provisions apply:

14 (1) (a) A member of the regular armed forces of the United States, a member's dependent, as defined

15 in 15-30-2115, who resides in the member's Montana household, or a member of the armed forces of a foreign

16 government attached to the regular armed forces of the United States is considered a resident for the purposes

17 of this chapter if:

18 (i) the member was a resident of Montana under the provisions of subsection (4) at the time the member

19 entered the armed forces and continues to meet the residency criteria of subsections (4)(b) through (4)(e); or

20 (ii) the member is currently stationed in and assigned to active duty in Montana, has resided in Montana

21 for at least 30 days, and presents official assignment orders and proof of completion of a hunter safety course

22 or, if applicable, a trapper safety course approved by the department, as provided in 87-2-105, or a certificate

23 verifying the successful completion of a hunter safety course or, if applicable, a trapper safety course in any state

24 or province. The 30-day residence requirement is waived in time of war. Reassignment to another state, United

25 States territory, or country terminates Montana residency for purposes of this section, except that a reassigned

26 member continues to qualify as a resident if the member's spouse and dependents continue to physically reside

27 in Montana and the member continues to meet the residency criteria of subsections (4)(b) through (4)(e). The

28 designation of Montana by a member of the regular armed forces as a "home of record" or "home of residence"

29 in that member's armed forces records does not determine the member's residency for purposes of this section.

30 (b) A member of the regular armed forces of the United States who is otherwise considered a Montana



1 resident pursuant to subsection (1)(a)(i) does not forfeit that status as a resident because the member, by virtue
2 of that membership, also possesses, has applied for, or has received resident hunting, fishing, or trapping
3 privileges in another state or country.

4 (2) A person who has physically resided in Montana as the person's principal or primary home or place
5 of abode for 180 consecutive days and who meets the criteria of subsection (4) immediately before making
6 application for any license is eligible to receive resident hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. As used in this
7 section, a vacant lot or a premises used solely for business purposes is not considered a principal or primary
8 home or place of abode.

9 (3) A person who obtains residency under subsection (2) may continue to be a resident for purposes of
10 this section by physically residing in Montana as the person's principal or primary home or place of abode for not
11 less than 120 days a year and by meeting the criteria of subsection (4) prior to making application for any resident
12 hunting, fishing, or trapping license.

13 (4) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2) or (3), a person ~~shall~~ must meet the following criteria
14 to be considered a resident for purposes of this section:

15 (a) the person's principal or primary home or place of abode is in Montana;

16 (b) the person files Montana state income tax returns as a resident if required to file;

17 (c) the person licenses and titles in Montana as required by law any vehicles that the person owns and
18 operates in Montana;

19 (d) except as provided in subsection (1)(b), the person does not possess or apply for any resident
20 hunting, fishing, or trapping licenses from another state or country or exercise resident hunting, fishing, or
21 trapping privileges in another state or country; and

22 (e) if the person registers to vote, the person registers only in Montana.

23 (5) A student who is enrolled full-time in a postsecondary educational institution out of state and who
24 would qualify for Montana resident tuition or who otherwise meets the residence requirements of subsection (2)
25 or (3) is considered a resident for purposes of this section.

26 (6) An enrollee of a job corps camp located within the state of Montana is, after a period of 30 days within
27 Montana, considered a resident for the purpose of making application for a fishing license as long as the person
28 remains an enrollee in a Montana camp.

29 (7) A person who does not reside in Montana but who meets all of the following requirements is a
30 resident for purposes of obtaining hunting and fishing licenses:

1 (a) The person's principal employment is within this state and the income from this employment is the
2 principal source of the applicant's family income.

3 (b) The person is required to pay and has paid Montana income tax in a timely manner and proper
4 amount.

5 (c) The person has been employed within this state on a full-time basis for at least 12 consecutive
6 months immediately preceding each application.

7 (d) The person's state of residency has laws substantially similar to this subsection (7).

8 (8) An unmarried minor is considered a resident for the purposes of this section if the minor's parents,
9 legal guardian, or parent with joint custody, sole custody, or visitation rights is a resident for purposes of this
10 section. The minor is considered a resident for purposes of this section regardless of whether the minor resides
11 primarily in the state or otherwise qualifies as a resident. The resident parent or guardian of the minor may be
12 required to show proof of the parental, guardianship, or custodial relationship to the minor.

13 (9) A person is not considered a resident for the purposes of this section if the person:

14 (a) claims residence in any other state or country for any purpose; or

15 (b) is an absentee property owner paying property tax on property in Montana.

16 (10) A license agent is not considered a representative of the state for the purpose of determining a
17 license applicant's residence status."

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19 **Section 2.** Section 87-2-105, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"87-2-105. Safety instruction required.** (1) Except for a youth who qualifies for a license pursuant to
21 87-2-805(4), a hunting license may not be issued to a person who is born after January 1, 1985, unless the
22 person authorized to issue the license determines proof of completion of:

23 (a) a Montana hunter safety and education course established in subsection ~~(4)~~ (5) or ~~(6)~~ (8);

24 (b) a hunter safety course in any other state or province; or

25 (c) a Montana hunter safety and education course that qualifies the person for a provisional certificate
26 as provided in 87-2-126.

27 (2) A hunting license may not be issued to a member of the regular armed forces of the United States
28 or to a member of the armed forces of a foreign government attached to the armed forces of the United States
29 who is assigned to active duty in Montana and who is otherwise considered a resident under 87-2-102(1) or to
30 a member's dependents, as defined in 15-30-2115, who reside in the member's Montana household, unless the

1 person authorized to issue the license determines proof of completion of a hunter safety course approved by the
2 department or a hunter safety course in any state or province.

3 (3) A bow and arrow license may not be issued to a resident or nonresident unless the person authorized
4 to issue the license receives an archery license issued for a prior hunting season or determines proof of
5 completion of a bowhunter education course from the national bowhunter education foundation or any other
6 bowhunter education program approved by the department. Neither the department nor the license agent is
7 required to provide records of past archery license purchases. As part of the department's bow and arrow
8 licensing procedures, the department shall notify the public regarding bowhunter education requirements.

9 (4) (a) A Class C trapper's license, as provided for in 87-2-601, may not be issued unless the person
10 authorized to issue the license:

11 (i) is shown by the applicant a Class C trapper's license issued to the applicant for a prior trapping
12 season;

13 (ii) is presented a certificate of completion by the applicant of a trapper safety and education course
14 approved by the department; or

15 (iii) validates the Class C license so that the holder may not trap but may hunt as authorized under
16 87-2-601.

17 (b) The license agent is not required to provide records of past trapping license purchases.

18 (c) The department is required to provide to individuals requesting a record of past trapping license
19 purchases only those records that are in the department's possession.

20 (d) As part of the department's trapping licensing procedures, the department shall notify the public
21 regarding trapper safety and education requirements.

22 ~~(4)~~(5) The department shall provide for a hunter safety and education course that includes instruction
23 in the safe handling of firearms and for that purpose may cooperate with any reputable organization having as
24 one of its objectives the promotion of hunter safety and education. The department may designate as an
25 instructor any person it finds to be competent to give instructions in hunter safety and education, including the
26 handling of firearms. A person appointed shall give the course of instruction and shall issue a certificate of
27 completion from Montana's hunter safety and education course to a person successfully completing the course.

28 ~~(5)~~(6) The department shall provide for a course of instruction from the national bowhunter education
29 foundation or any other bowhunter education program approved by the department and for that purpose may
30 cooperate with any reputable organization having as one of its objectives the promotion of safety in the handling

1 of bow hunting tackle. The department may designate as an instructor any person it finds to be competent to give
2 bowhunter education instruction. A person appointed shall give the course of instruction and shall issue a
3 certificate of completion to any person successfully completing the course.

4 (7) The department shall provide for a course of trapper safety and education developed from any state
5 or national education program approved by the department and for that purpose shall cooperate with nonprofit
6 trapping organizations in Montana that promote safe and responsible trapping. As needed, the department shall
7 designate as an instructor any person it finds to be competent to give trapper safety and education instruction
8 and shall cooperate with nonprofit trapping organizations in Montana to develop the criteria for determining
9 competency. A person designated as an instructor shall give the course of instruction and shall issue a certificate
10 of completion from the Montana trapper safety and education course to any person successfully completing the
11 course.

12 ~~(6)~~(8) The department may develop an adult hunter safety and education course.

13 ~~(7)~~(9) The department may adopt rules regarding how a person authorized to issue a license determines
14 proof of completion of a required course."

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16 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective March 1, 2012.

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