

SENATE BILL NO. 142

INTRODUCED BY DEBBY BARRETT

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFICATION AND TRANSPLANTATION OF WOLVES, BEARS, AND MOUNTAIN LIONS; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS TO CONSULT WITH LAND AGENCIES AND LAND USERS; INCREASING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC NOTICE; REQUIRING ANNUAL REPORTS; AMENDING SECTION 87-5-725, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 87-5-725, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-5-725. Notification of transplanted Transplantation or introduction of wildlife -- annual report required. (1) In considering the introduction or transplantation of a wolf, bear, or mountain lion pursuant to this part, the department shall adhere to the goals for large predator management as prioritized in 87-1-217.

(+) (2) When the decision to introduce or transplant a wolf, bear, or mountain lion is made pursuant to this part, the department shall:

(a) provide public notice on its website and, when practical, by personal contact in the general area where the animal is released; and

_____ (b) notify the public through print and broadcast media of the availability of release information on the department's website.

_____ (2) Prior permission from the landowner is required before any animal may be transplanted onto private property:

(a) consult with the appropriate land management agencies and land users;

(b) obtain permission from the landowner if a wolf, bear, or mountain lion is proposed to be introduced or transplanted onto private property;

(c) within 5 days of the introduction or transplantation:

(i) notify the county sheriff of the county in which the wolf, bear, or mountain lion is introduced or transplanted;

(ii) issue a press release to the media in each county affected by the introduction or transplantation. The



1 press release and the notice to the sheriff must include:

2 (A) the type of animal and, if applicable, the identification number and notation of the animal's radio
3 transmitter;

4 (B) the details of the decision and any conflict involving the animal that led to the introduction or
5 transplantation;

6 (C) the date of the introduction or transplantation;

7 (D) the number of animals introduced or transplanted; and

8 (E) the location of the introduction or transplantation.

9 (iii) publish the information in subsection (2)(c)(ii) prominently on its website.

10 (3) By November 30 of each year, the department shall submit a detailed report of introductions and
11 transplantations during the prior year to the environmental quality council. The report must include a map showing
12 all locations for the year for each animal introduced or transplanted that is fitted with a radio transmitter."

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

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