

SENATE BILL NO. 143

INTRODUCED BY DEBBY BARRETT

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING MONTANA GRIZZLY BEAR POLICY TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH HUMANS AND LIVESTOCK; AMENDING SECTION 87-5-301, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 87-5-301, MCA, is amended to read:

**~~"87-5-301. Policy toward grizzly~~ Grizzly bear -- findings -- policy.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) grizzly bears are a recovered population and thrive under responsive cooperative management;

(b) grizzly bear conservation is best served under state management and the local, state, tribal, and federal partnerships that fostered recovery; and

(c) successful conflict management is key to maintaining public support for conservation of the grizzly bear.

~~(2) It is hereby declared the policy of the state of Montana to: protect, conserve, and~~

(a) manage the grizzly bear as a rare species of Montana wildlife to avoid conflicts with humans and livestock; and

(b) use preemptive management to control grizzly bear distribution and prevent conflicts, including trapping and lethal measures."

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

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