

Montana State Legislature

2013 Session

Additional Documents include:

- * Business Report**
- * Roll Call- attendance**
- * Standing Committee Reports,**
- * Table Bills, Fiscal reports etc.**
- * Roll Call Votes**
- * Witness Statements**
- * Informational items**
- * Visitor Registrations**
- * Any other Documents;**
 - ~ Petitions if any?**
 - ~ Any and all material handed in after the meeting end.**

**The original is on file at the
Montana Historical Society and
may be viewed there.**

**Montana Historical Society Archives
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BUSINESS REPORT
MONTANA SENATE
63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
SENATE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2013
Place: Capitol

Time: 3:00 PM
Room: 422

BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:

SB 344 - Public scoping process for FWP land acquisitions - Sen. Chas Vincent
SB 305 - Generally revise laws governing bison management in Montana - Sen. Jim Peterson
SB 341 - Establish criteria for transplantation or augmentation of wildlife - Sen. Jennifer Fielder
SB 260 - Revise restriction on # of nonresident large predator hunting licenses issued - Sen. Fred Thomas

EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

SB 344 - Do Pass

Comments:



SEN. John Brenden, Chair

MONTANA STATE SENATE
Roll Call
FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

DATE: 2-19-13

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT/ EXCUSED</u>
SENATOR JOHN BRENDEN, CHAIRMAN	↓	
SENATOR RICK RIPLEY, VICE CHAIRMAN	↓	
SENATOR DEBBY BARRETT		EXCUSED
SENATOR TOM FACEY		EXCUSED
SENATOR JENNIFER FIELDER	✓	
SENATOR BRAD HAMLETT	✓	
SENATOR LARRY JENT		EXCUSED
SENATOR JIM PETERSON	✓	
SENATOR FRED THOMAS	✓	
SENATOR KENDALL VAN DYK	✓	



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

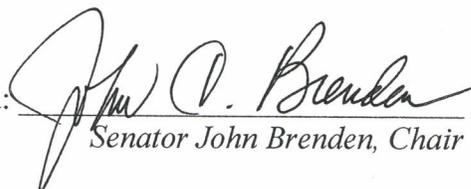
February 19, 2013

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Mr. President:

We, your committee on **Fish and Game** recommend that **Senate Bill 344** (first reading copy -- white) **do pass**.

Signed:


Senator John Brenden, Chair

- END -

Committee Vote:

Yes 7, No 0

Fiscal Note Required

SB0344001SC.swr

MONTANA STATE SENATE
Visitors Register
SENATE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

SB 341 - Establish criteria for transplantation or augmentation of wildlife

Sponsor: **Sen. Jennifer Fielder**

PLEASE PRINT

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Bob Gilbert	Walleyes Unlimited		X	
Jonathan Proctor	Defenders of Wildlife		X	
George Golie	MWF		X	
Jim Pogorzilz	self		X	
Jim Weatherly	MT Wild Sheep Foundation		X	
V. A. Quatman	Montana Sportsmen Assoc ^{ALLIANCE}		X	
Janet Ellis	MT Audubon		X	
Tom FRANCE	NADWIZ WILDLIFE		X	
Rod Bullis	SELF		X	
QUENTIN KUSALA	FWP		X	
Mark Angenes	MTU		X	
Nicole Rolf	MFBF	X		
Shelby De Mars	UPOM	X		
Jay Bodner	MSGAA/MT Public Lands Council	+		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.



BUFFALO FIELD CAMPAIGN

P.O. BOX 957

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA 59758

(406) 646-0070 PHONE (406) 646-0071 FAX

<http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org>

buffalo@wildrockies.org

February 19, 2013

Chairman John Brenden and members of the Senate Fish and Game committee, Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Fish & Game committee,

On behalf of Buffalo Field Campaign I am submitting testimony on SB 305. Mr. Chairman, I would also request that my testimony be shared with committee members and entered into the hearing record. Thank you.

Buffalo Field Campaign opposes SB 305 and the sponsor's attempt to re-define the legal classification of wild buffalo.

SB 305 revises the definition of wild buffalo as "never" been reduced to captivity and "never" owned by a person.

A wild buffalo that "has not" been reduced to captivity and "is not" owned by a person is the current definition.

Under SB 305, any buffalo reintroduced or reduced to some form of captivity would not be treated under the law as wild buffalo in Montana.

SB 305 would prevent any reintroduced buffalo from being recognized in the law as a native wildlife species in Montana. The sponsor should be asked: How would 'ownership' be assigned to a reintroduced wildlife species?

Because both the Department of Livestock and Yellowstone National Park have reduced wild buffalo to captivity, the sponsor should be asked how SB 305 affects those members who have been reduced to captivity.

If buffalo have been released from captivity, is their legal status now that of domestic bison? If so, how does SB 305 assign ownership?

Part of the Yellowstone buffalo population was also reintroduced into captivity at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch in the early 1900s. The sponsor should be asked how SB 305 affects those members of the population that were reintroduced and released from captivity but bred with wild buffalo that were "never" reduced to captivity and "never" owned by a person.

There is no legal purpose served in re-defining the current definition of wild buffalo as SB 305 would have it.

The current definition is clear: wildlife is not 'owned' like property, and is free from captivity.

SB 305 is not amendable. Thank you for taking action to by voting to defeat SB 305.

Daniel Brister, MS
Executive Director
Buffalo Field Campaign
PO Box 957
West Yellowstone MT 59758
phone: (406) 646-0070
fax: (406) 646-0071
email: director@buffalofieldcampaign.org