

House Bill 170
March 7, 2013
Presented by George Pauley
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am George Pauley, Wildlife Management Bureau Chief of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here today on behalf of the Director to provide information regarding House Bill 170.

HB 170 will provide a three-day nonresident Upland Game Bird hunting license for \$50. To put it into perspective, a nonresident upland game bird license currently costs \$110 and is valid for the full 4-month season. There are pros and cons to offering a three-day license at a reduced cost.

Pros include more flexibility and cheaper prices for nonresident visitors who are here for just a few days. This could motivate someone who might not otherwise hunt in MT to do so, which we assumed would be the case in our fiscal note.

Cons include potentially more crowding and competition during busy times, especially opening days; and loss of sales of full season licenses to people who will now buy a \$50 three-day license instead of the full season \$110 license. We have also heard some concerns by businesses that rely on upland game bird hunters for a significant part of their business that this could impact their business since hunters who previously stayed more days or made multiple trips to MT might just go for one, three-day visit with this license option.

Because of these competing clear pros and cons, FWP has not taken a position on this bill.

I am available to answer any questions.

Thank you.