

SENATE BILL NO. 305

INTRODUCED BY J. PETERSON

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION OF WILD BUFFALO AND WILD BISON; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 81-1-101, 87-2-101, AND 87-6-101, MCA."

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

Section 1. Section 81-1-101, MCA, is amended to read:

"81-1-101. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in Title 81, the following definitions apply:

- (1) (a) "Bison" means domestic bison or feral bison.
- (b) The term does not include:
 - (i) wild buffalo or wild bison; or
 - (ii) for the purposes of chapter 9, buffalo.
- (2) "Board" means the board of livestock provided for in 2-15-3102, except as provided in Title 81, chapter 23.
- (3) "Department" means the department of livestock provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 31.
- (4) "Domestic bison" means a bison owned by a person.
- (5) "Feral bison" means a domestic bison or progeny of a domestic bison that has escaped or been released from captivity and is running at large and unrestrained on public or private land.
- (6) "Wild buffalo" or "wild bison" means a bison that has ~~not~~ never been reduced to captivity and ~~is not~~ has never been owned by a person."

Section 2. Section 87-2-101, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-2-101. Definitions. As used in Title 87, chapter 3, and this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Angling" or "fishing" means to take or the act of a person possessing any instrument, article, or substance for the purpose of taking fish in any location that a fish might inhabit.
- (2) (a) "Bait" means any animal matter, vegetable matter, or natural or artificial scent placed in an area inhabited by wildlife for the purpose of attracting game animals or game birds.

- 1 (b) The term does not include:
- 2 (i) decoys, silhouettes, or other replicas of wildlife body forms;
- 3 (ii) scents used only to mask human odor; or
- 4 (iii) types of scents that are approved by the commission for attracting game animals or game birds.
- 5 (3) "Fur-bearing animals" means marten or sable, otter, muskrat, fisher, mink, bobcat, lynx, wolverine,
- 6 northern swift fox, and beaver.
- 7 (4) "Game animals" means deer, elk, moose, antelope, caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goat,
- 8 mountain lion, bear, and wild buffalo.
- 9 (5) "Game fish" means all species of the family Salmonidae (chars, trout, salmon, grayling, and
- 10 whitefish); all species of the genus Sander (sandpike or sauger and walleyed pike or yellowpike perch); all
- 11 species of the genus Esox (northern pike, pickerel, and muskellunge); all species of the genus Micropterus
- 12 (bass); all species of the genus Polyodon (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); all
- 13 species of the genus Lota (burbot or ling); the species *Perca flavescens* (yellow perch); all species of the genus
- 14 *Pomoxis* (crappie); and the species *Ictalurus punctatus* (channel catfish).
- 15 (6) "Hunt" means to pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess, or capture or the act of a person
- 16 possessing a weapon, as defined in 45-2-101, or using a dog or a bird of prey for the purpose of shooting,
- 17 wounding, killing, possessing, or capturing wildlife protected by the laws of this state in any location that wildlife
- 18 may inhabit, whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently taken. The term includes an attempt to take by
- 19 any means, including but not limited to pursuing, shooting, wounding, killing, chasing, luring, possessing, or
- 20 capturing.
- 21 (7) "Migratory game birds" means waterfowl, including wild ducks, wild geese, brant, and swans; cranes,
- 22 including little brown and sandhill; rails, including coots; Wilson's snipes or jacksnipes; and mourning doves.
- 23 (8) "Nongame wildlife" means any wild mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile, fish, mollusk, crustacean, or
- 24 other animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation of this state.
- 25 (9) "Open season" means the time during which game birds, game fish, game animals, and fur-bearing
- 26 animals may be lawfully taken.
- 27 (10) "Person" means an individual, association, partnership, or corporation.
- 28 (11) "Predatory animals" means coyote, weasel, skunk, and civet cat.
- 29 (12) "Trap" means to take or participate in the taking of any wildlife protected by the laws of the state by
- 30 setting or placing any mechanical device, snare, deadfall, pit, or device intended to take wildlife or to remove

1 wildlife from any of these devices.

2 (13) "Upland game birds" means sharp-tailed grouse, blue grouse, spruce (Franklin) grouse, prairie
3 chicken, sage hen or sage grouse, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, ptarmigan, wild
4 turkey, and chukar partridge.

5 (14) "Wild buffalo" means buffalo or bison that have ~~not~~ never been reduced to captivity and have never
6 been owned by a person.

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8 **Section 3.** Section 87-6-101, MCA, is amended to read:

9 **"87-6-101. Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions
10 apply:

11 (1) "Alternative livestock" means a privately owned caribou, white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose,
12 antelope, mountain sheep, or mountain goat indigenous to the state of Montana, a privately owned reindeer, or
13 any other cloven-hoofed ungulate as classified by the department. Black bear and mountain lion must be
14 regulated pursuant to Title 87, chapter 4, part 8.

15 (2) "Alternative livestock ranch" means the enclosed land area upon which alternative livestock may be
16 kept for purposes of obtaining, rearing in captivity, keeping, or selling alternative livestock or parts of alternative
17 livestock, as authorized under Title 87, chapter 4, part 4.

18 (3) (a) "Bait" means any animal matter, vegetable matter, or natural or artificial scent placed in an area
19 inhabited by wildlife for the purpose of attracting game animals or game birds.

20 (b) The term does not include:

21 (i) decoys, silhouettes, or other replicas of wildlife body forms;

22 (ii) scents used only to mask human odor; or

23 (iii) types of scents that are approved by the commission for attracting game animals or game birds.

24 (4) "Closed season" means the time during which game birds, fish, game animals, and fur-bearing
25 animals may not be lawfully taken.

26 (5) "Cloven-hoofed ungulate" means an animal of the order Artiodactyla, except a member of the families
27 Suidae, Camelidae, or Hippopotamidae. The term does not include domestic pigs, domestic cows, domestic yaks,
28 domestic sheep, domestic goats that are not naturally occurring in the wild in their country of origin, or bison.

29 (6) "Conviction" means a judgment or sentence entered following a guilty plea, a nolo contendere plea,
30 a verdict or finding of guilty rendered by a legally constituted jury or by a court of competent jurisdiction authorized

1 to try the case without a jury, or a forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure the person's appearance in
2 court that has not been vacated.

3 (7) "Field trial" means an examination to determine the ability of dogs to point, flush, or retrieve game
4 birds.

5 (8) "Fishing" means to take fish or the act of a person possessing any instrument, article, or substance
6 for the purpose of taking fish in any location that a fish might inhabit.

7 (9) (a) "Fur dealer" means a person engaging in, carrying on, or conducting wholly or in part the business
8 of buying or selling, trading, or dealing within the state of Montana in the skins or pelts of fur-bearing animals or
9 predatory animals.

10 (b) If a fur dealer resides in Montana or if the fur dealer's principal place of business is within the state
11 of Montana, the fur dealer is considered a resident fur dealer. All other fur dealers are considered nonresident
12 fur dealers.

13 (10) "Fur farm" means enclosed land upon which furbearers are kept for purposes of obtaining, rearing
14 in captivity, keeping, and selling furbearers or parts of furbearers.

15 (11) (a) "Fur-bearing animal" or "furbearer" means marten or sable, otter, muskrat, fisher, mink, bobcat,
16 lynx, wolverine, northern swift fox, and beaver.

17 (b) As used in Title 87, chapter 4, part 10, "furbearer" does not include fox or mink.

18 (12) "Game animal" means deer, elk, moose, antelope, caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goat,
19 mountain lion, bear, and wild buffalo.

20 (13) "Game fish" means all species of the family Salmonidae (chars, trout, salmon, grayling, and
21 whitefish); all species of the genus Stizostedion (sandpike or sauger and walleyed pike or yellowpike perch); all
22 species of the genus Esox (northern pike, pickerel, and muskellunge); all species of the genus Micropterus
23 (bass); all species of the genus Polyodon (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); all
24 species of the genus Lota (burbot or ling); the species *Perca flavescens* (yellow perch); all species of the genus
25 *Pomoxis* (crappie); and the species *Ictalurus punctatus* (channel catfish).

26 (14) "Hunt" means to pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess, or capture or the act of a person
27 possessing a weapon, as defined in 45-2-101, or using a dog or a bird of prey for the purpose of shooting,
28 wounding, killing, possessing, or capturing wildlife protected by the laws of this state in any location that wildlife
29 may inhabit, whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently taken. The term includes an attempt to take by
30 any means, including but not limited to pursuing, shooting, wounding, killing, chasing, luring, possessing, or

1 capturing.

2 (15) "Knowingly" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

3 (16) "Livestock" includes ostriches, rheas, and emus.

4 (17) "Migratory game bird" means waterfowl, including wild ducks, wild geese, brant, and swans; cranes,
5 including little brown and sandhill; rails, including coots; Wilson's snipes or jacksnipes; and mourning doves.

6 (18) "Negligently" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

7 (19) "Nongame wildlife" means any wild mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile, fish, mollusk, crustacean, or
8 other animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation of this state.

9 (20) "Open season" means the time during which game birds, fish, and game and fur-bearing animals
10 may be lawfully taken.

11 (21) "Participating state" means any state that enacts legislation to become a member of the Interstate
12 Wildlife Violator Compact.

13 (22) "Person" means an individual, association, partnership, and corporation.

14 (23) "Possession" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

15 (24) "Predatory animal" means coyote, weasel, skunk, and civet cat.

16 (25) "Purposely" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

17 (26) "Raptor" means all birds of the orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes, commonly called falcons,
18 hawks, eagles, ospreys, and owls.

19 (27) "Resident" has the meaning provided in 87-2-102.

20 (28) "Roadside menagerie" means any place where one or more wild animals are kept in captivity for the
21 evident purpose of exhibition or attracting trade, on or off the facility premises. It does not include the exhibition
22 of any animal by an educational institution or by a traveling theatrical exhibition or circus based outside of
23 Montana.

24 (29) "Sale" means a contract by which a person:

25 (a) transfers an interest in either game or fish for a price; or

26 (b) transfers, barter, or exchanges an interest either in game or fish for an article or thing of value.

27 (30) "Supplemental feed attractant" means any food, garbage, or other attractant for game animals. The
28 term does not include growing plants or plants harvested for the feeding of livestock.

29 (31) "Taxidermist" means a person who conducts a business for the purpose of mounting, preserving,
30 or preparing all or part of the dead bodies of any wildlife.

