

SENATE BILL NO. 371

INTRODUCED BY F. THOMAS

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PLANT AND MAINTAIN VEGETATION ON CERTAIN HIGHWAY CENTER MEDIANS; AND AMENDING SECTION 60-2-208, MCA."

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

Section 1. Section 60-2-208, MCA, is amended to read:

"60-2-208. Seeding along highways -- planting on center medians. (1) After a federal-aid or state highway is constructed, the department shall:

(a) seed barrow pits, slopes, and shoulders to an adaptable perennial grass or combination of perennial grasses and legumes whenever establishment of perennial grass covers seem suitable. The seed must be certified.

(b) plant center medians with certified perennial grasses, legumes, shrubs, and trees whenever establishment of perennial grasses, legumes, shrubs, and trees seem suitable; and

(c) maintain the perennial grasses, legumes, shrubs, and trees that have been seeded and planted under this section.

(2) The department shall seek joint recommendations and specifications as to time and method of seeding, fertilizing practices, and grass species from the Montana extension service, the experiment station, and the natural resources conservation service.

(3) After a right-of-way in open range has been fenced pursuant to 60-7-103, the department may seed the land within the fence with a grass that may be cropped for hay and may lease the land or sell the right to take the hay to qualified persons."

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