

HOUSE BILL NO. 553

INTRODUCED BY A. CURTIS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING A NEWS MEDIA ORGANIZATION FROM PUBLISHING CERTAIN FATAL ACCIDENT SCENE PHOTOGRAPHS ON SOCIAL MEDIA UNTIL THE DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN HAS BEEN NOTIFIED; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Prohibition against publication of fatal accident scene photographs on social media prior to notification. A news media organization may not publish on a social media platform photographs of a fatal accident scene that make it possible to identify a victim of the fatal accident before the next of kin of the deceased has been notified of the death.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 44, chapter 5, part 3, and the provisions of Title 44, chapter 5, part 3, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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