

1 SENATE BILL NO. 255

2 INTRODUCED BY P. FLOWERS

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING REVENUE FOR BISON MANAGEMENT;
5 ESTABLISHING AN AUCTION FOR A WILD BUFFALO OR BISON LICENSE; DIRECTING LOTTERY
6 LICENSE PROCEEDS; AND AMENDING SECTION 87-1-271, MCA."

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

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10 **Section 1.** Section 87-1-271, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"87-1-271. Annual lottery of hunting licenses -- proceeds dedicated to hunting access.** (1) The
12 commission may issue through a lottery one license each year for each of the following:

- 13 (a) deer;
- 14 (b) elk;
- 15 (c) shiras moose;
- 16 (d) mountain sheep;
- 17 (e) mountain goat;
- 18 (f) wild buffalo or bison;
- 19 (g) antelope; and
- 20 (h) mountain lion.

21 (2) The restriction in 87-2-702(4) that a person who receives a moose, mountain goat, or mountain
22 sheep special license is not eligible to receive another license for that species for the next 7 years does not
23 apply to a person who receives a license through a lottery conducted pursuant to this section.

24 (3) The commission shall establish rules regarding:

- 25 (a) the conduct of the lottery authorized in this section;
- 26 (b) the use of licenses issued through the lottery; and
- 27 (c) the price of lottery tickets.

28 (4) (a) Except as provided in 87-2-903 and subsection (4)(b), all proceeds from a lottery conducted

1 pursuant to this section must be used by the department for hunting access programs and law enforcement.

2 (b) Proceeds from a wild buffalo or bison auction must be used for the management of wild bison
3 pursuant to 87-1-216.

4 (5) At the end of each fiscal year, any unspent funds must be transferred to the general license
5 account established in 87-1-601(1)."

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7 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Bison license auction.** (1) The commission may issue one wild buffalo
8 or bison license each year through competitive auction. A wildlife conservation organization approved by the
9 commission may conduct the license auction. The wildlife conservation organization may retain up to 10% of
10 the proceeds to cover reasonable auction expenses.

11 (2) After payment of auction expenses, proceeds must be used for the management of wild bison
12 pursuant to 87-1-216.

13 (3) At the end of each fiscal year, any unspent funds must be transferred to the general license
14 account established in 87-1-601(1).

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16 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an
17 integral part of Title 87, chapter 2, part 7, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 7, apply to [section 2].

18 - END -