

HOUSE BILL NO. 32  
INTRODUCED BY G. GOLIE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING THE HUNTING OF MOUNTAIN LIONS AND BOBCATS DURING OPEN SEASON WITH THE AID OF A DOG OR DOGS; ESTABLISHING A TRAINING SEASON DURING WHICH MOUNTAIN LIONS AND BOBCATS MAY BE PURSUED WITH A DOG OR DOGS; AMENDING SECTION 87-3-124, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 87-3-124, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-3-124. Dogs -- restrictions on hunting -- penalty for chasing hooved game animals.** (1) (a) Except as provided in 87-3-127 and subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a person may not chase with a dog any of the game or fur-bearing animals as defined by the fish and game laws of this state.

(b) A person may take game birds during the appropriate open season with the aid of a dog. Any person or association organized for the protection of game may run field trials at any time upon obtaining written permission from the director.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (2), any peace officer, game warden, or other person authorized to enforce the Montana fish and game laws who witnesses a dog chasing, stalking, pursuing, attacking, or killing hooved game animals may destroy that dog, on public land or on private land at the request of the landowner, without criminal or civil liability.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person who purposely, knowingly, or negligently permits a dog to chase, stalk, pursue, attack, or kill hooved game animals is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to the penalty in 87-1-102(1). If the dog is not under the control of an adult at the time of the violation, the owner of the dog is personally responsible. A defense that the dog was allowed to run at large by another person is not allowable, unless it is shown that at the time of the violation, the dog was running at large without the consent of the owner and that the owner took reasonable precautions to prevent the dog from running at large.

(2) A person may use trained or controlled dogs to chase or herd away game animals or fur-bearing animals to protect humans, lawns, gardens, livestock, or agricultural products, including growing crops and stored hay and grain. The dog may not be destroyed pursuant to subsection (1)(c).

(3) ~~(a) The commission has authority to allow and regulate the use of dogs for hunting and chasing~~

~~mountain lion and bobcat.~~ A person may hunt mountain lions and bobcats during open season with the aid of a dog or dogs.

(b) A person may pursue mountain lions and bobcats with a dog or dogs during a training season from December 1 of each year to April 14 of the following year."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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