

HOUSE BILL NO. 306
INTRODUCED BY J. BALYEAT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IX OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION RECOGNIZING AND PRESERVING THE HERITAGE OF MONTANA CITIZENS TO HARVEST WILD FISH AND WILD GAME ANIMALS AND REQUIRING THE STATE TO MANAGE PUBLICLY OWNED FISH AND WILDLIFE TO PRESERVE OPPORTUNITIES TO HARVEST WILD FISH AND WILD GAME ANIMALS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1.** Article IX of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended by adding a new section 6 that reads:

Section 6. Preservation of harvest heritage. (1) The harvest of wild fish and wild game animals is a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the individual citizens of the state, does not create a right to unauthorized trespass on private property or diminution of other private rights, and, for state residents, may be abridged only by general regulation necessary to further a compelling state interest.

(2) The state shall manage publicly owned fish and wildlife to preserve opportunities for the harvest of wild fish and wild game animals by the citizens of the state.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** This amendment is effective upon approval by the electorate.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Submission to electorate.** This amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2004 by printing on the ballot the full title of this act and the following:

- ☐ FOR recognizing and preserving the heritage of Montanans to harvest wild fish and game and requiring management of fish and wildlife to preserve the heritage.
- ☐ AGAINST recognizing and preserving the heritage of Montanans to harvest wild fish and game and requiring management of fish and wildlife to preserve the heritage.

- END -

