

HOUSE BILL NO. 537  
INTRODUCED BY B. LAWSON

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION TO COMMISSION A NEW STUDY TO RECALCULATE THE ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE YIELD ON FORESTED STATE LANDS; SETTING THE ANNUAL TIMBER SALE TARGET AT 50 MILLION BOARD FEET UNTIL THE NEW STUDY IS COMPLETED; AMENDING SECTION 77-5-222, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 77-5-222, MCA, is amended to read:

**"77-5-222. Determination of annual sustainable yield.** (1) The department, ~~under the direction of the board,~~ shall commission a new study by a qualified independent third party to determine, using scientific principles, the annual sustainable yield on forested state lands. The department shall direct the qualified independent third party to determine the yield pursuant to, but not exceeding, all state and federal laws.

(2) Until the new study required by subsection (1) is completed, the ~~annual sustainable yield is considered to be a range of 45 million board feet to 55~~ department is directed to prepare and sell 50 million board feet a year."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Coordination instruction.** If \_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_ [LC 1441] is not passed and approved, then [this act] is void.

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

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