

SENATE BILL NO. 169  
INTRODUCED BY D. MAHLUM

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT LANDOWNER PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR HUNTING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY IF THE PROPERTY IS POSTED WITH SIGNS IDENTIFYING THE LANDOWNER, THE LANDOWNER'S LESSEE, OR THEIR AGENT; AMENDING SECTION 87-3-304, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, the act of hunting on private land is a privilege and not a right; and

WHEREAS, it is common courtesy to ask permission before entering private property; and

WHEREAS, increased communication normally leads to less confrontation; and

WHEREAS, communication depends on hunters being able to identify landowners, lessees, or agents;

and

WHEREAS, with increased hunting pressure placed on private land, it is essential to maintain good rapport between landowners and hunters.

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

**Section 1.** Section 87-3-304, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-3-304. Landowner's permission required for hunting -- penalty.** (1) Every resident and nonresident must have obtained permission of the landowner, the landowner's lessee, or their agents before taking or attempting to take nongame wildlife or predatory animals or hunting on private property if the landowner, landowner's lessee, or agent is identified on signs near property corners along public roads and on any unfenced boundaries with public land.

(2) Except for hunting big game animals on private property, a person who violates this section shall, upon conviction for a first offense, be fined an amount not to exceed \$25."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2003.

- END -

