

HOUSE BILL NO. 278

INTRODUCED BY T. WASHBURN

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REDUCING THE WAITING PERIOD FOR USE OF A BEAR HUNTING LICENSE; AMENDING SECTION 87-2-702, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 87-2-702, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-2-702. Restrictions on special licenses -- availability of bear and mountain lion licenses. (1)

A person who has killed or taken any game animal, except a deer, an elk, or an antelope, during the current license year is not permitted to receive a special license under this chapter to hunt or kill a second game animal of the same species.

(2) The commission may require applicants for special permits authorized by this chapter to obtain a valid big game license for that species for the current year prior to applying for a special permit.

(3) A person may take only one grizzly bear in Montana with a license authorized by 87-2-701.

(4) (a) Except as provided in 87-1-271(2), a person who receives a moose, mountain goat, or limited mountain sheep license, as authorized by 87-2-701, with the exception of an antlerless moose or an adult ewe game management license issued under 87-2-104, is not eligible to receive another special license for that species for the next 7 years. For the purposes of this subsection (4)(a), "limited mountain sheep license" means a license that is valid for an area in which the number of licenses issued is restricted.

(b) Except as provided in 87-1-271(2), a person who takes a mountain sheep using an unlimited mountain sheep license, with the exception of a mountain sheep taken pursuant to an adult ewe license, as authorized by 87-2-701, is not eligible to receive another special license for that species for the next 7 years. For the purposes of this subsection (4)(b), "unlimited mountain sheep license" means a license that is valid for an area in which the number of licenses issued is not restricted.

(5) An application for a wild buffalo or bison license must be made on the same form and is subject to the same license application deadline as the special license for moose, mountain goat, and mountain sheep.

(6) (a) Licenses for spring bear hunts must be available for purchase at department offices after April

1 15 of any license year. However, a person who purchases a license for a spring bear hunt after April 15 of any
2 license year may not use the license until ~~5 days~~ 24 hours after the license is issued.

3 (b) Licenses for fall bear hunts must be available for purchase at department offices after August 31 of
4 any license year. However, a person who purchases a license for a fall bear hunt after August 31 of any license
5 year may not use the license until ~~5 days~~ 24 hours after the license is issued.

6 (7) Licenses for mountain lion hunts must be available for purchase at department offices after August
7 31 of any license year. However, a person who purchases a license for a mountain lion hunt after August 31 of
8 any license year may not use the license until 5 days after the license is issued."

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

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