

SENATE BILL NO. 123

INTRODUCED BY K. VAN DYK

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE HUNTERS AGAINST HUNGER PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR AN OPTIONAL DONATION ON CERTAIN HUNTING LICENCES; ESTABLISHING THE HUNTERS AGAINST HUNGER ACCOUNT; PROVIDING FOR DONATIONS TO BE DEPOSITED INTO THE ACCOUNT; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-1-601 AND 87-2-903, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Hunters against hunger -- findings -- optional donation -- rulemaking.

(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) hunters play a vital role in achieving population management objectives for game animals;

(b) the donation of game animals to charitable or nonprofit organizations for free distribution to people can help stop hunger; and

(c) hunters should have the option of donating \$1 or more above the purchase price for certain licenses toward a program that would process donated wild game and distribute the meat to those in need.

(2) A person who applies for or purchases a deer, antelope, elk, or wild buffalo license may donate \$1 or more in addition to the price of each license to the hunters against hunger program.

(3) The department shall deposit donations received pursuant to this section into the hunters against hunger account established in [section 2].

(4) The department shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section, including:

(a) providing the forms necessary for the hunters against hunger donation option;

(b) regulating the payment of funds from the hunters against hunger account to meat processors for the processing of donated game animals, including the use of a request for proposals process in areas where a competitive meat processing market exists; and

(c) establishing guidelines for the donation of game animals to meat processors who are paid from the hunters against hunger account and for the donation of processed game meat to those in need.

1 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Hunters against hunger account.** (1) There is a hunters against hunger
2 account in the state special revenue fund established by 17-2-102. Funds deposited into this account must be
3 used by the department for the purposes of [section 1].

4 (2) The following money must be deposited into the account:

5 (a) donations received pursuant to [section 1];

6 (b) interest earned on the account; and

7 (c) money received by the department in the form of gifts or grants or from any source intended to be
8 used for the purposes of [section 1].

9 (3) Any money in the account that is unspent or unencumbered at the end of a fiscal year must remain
10 in the account.

11

12 **Section 3.** Section 87-1-601, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"87-1-601. Use of fish and game money.** (1) (a) Except as provided in [section 1], 87-1-290, 87-1-623,
14 and subsections (8) and (10) of this section, all money collected or received from the sale of hunting and fishing
15 licenses or permits, from the sale of seized game or hides, from damages collected for violations of the fish and
16 game laws of this state, or from appropriations or received by the department from any other state source must
17 be turned over to the department of revenue and placed in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the
18 department.

19 (b) Any money received from federal sources must be deposited in the federal special revenue fund to
20 the credit of the department.

21 (c) All interest earned on money from the following sources must be placed in the state special revenue
22 fund to the credit of the department:

23 (i) the general license account;

24 (ii) the license drawing account;

25 (iii) accounts established to administer the provisions of 87-1-246, 87-1-258, 87-1-605, 87-2-411,
26 87-2-722, and 87-2-724; and

27 (iv) money received from the sale of any other hunting and fishing license.

28 (2) Except as provided in 87-2-411, the money described in subsection (1) must be exclusively set apart
29 and made available for the payment of all salaries, per diem, fees, expenses, and expenditures authorized to be
30 made by the department under the terms of this title. The money described in subsection (1) must be spent for

1 those purposes by the department, subject to appropriation by the legislature.

2 (3) Any reference to the fish and game fund in Title 87 means fish and game money in the state special
3 revenue fund and the federal special revenue fund.

4 (4) Except as provided in subsections (8) and (9), all money collected or received from fines and forfeited
5 bonds, except money collected or received by a justice's court, that relates to violations of state fish and game
6 laws under Title 87 must be deposited by the department of revenue and credited to the department in a state
7 special revenue fund account for this purpose. Out of any fine imposed by a court for the violation of the fish and
8 game laws, the costs of prosecution must be paid to the county where the trial was held in any case in which the
9 fine is not imposed in addition to the costs of prosecution.

10 (5) (a) Except as provided in 87-1-621, section 2(3), Chapter 560, Laws of 2005, and subsection (6) of
11 this section, money must be deposited in an account in the permanent fund if it is received by the department
12 from:

13 (i) the sale of surplus real property;

14 (ii) exploration or development of oil, gas, or mineral deposits from lands acquired by the department,
15 except royalties or other compensation based on production; and

16 (iii) leases of interests in department real property not contemplated at the time of acquisition.

17 (b) The interest derived from the account, but not the principal, may be used only for the purpose of
18 operation, development, and maintenance of real property of the department and only upon appropriation by the
19 legislature. If the use of money as set forth in this section would result in violation of applicable federal laws or
20 state statutes specifically naming the department or money received by the department, then the use of this
21 money must be limited in the manner, method, and amount to those uses that do not result in a violation.

22 (6) Money received from the sale or lease of lands acquired and managed for the purposes of Title 23,
23 chapter 1, must be deposited in the state special revenue fund in the account established for miscellaneous funds
24 received for state parks and may be used only for the purposes of Title 23, chapter 1.

25 (7) Money received from the collection of license drawing applications is subject to the deposit
26 requirements of 17-6-105(6) unless the department has submitted and received approval for a modified deposit
27 schedule pursuant to 17-6-105(8).

28 (8) Money collected or received from fines or forfeited bonds for the violation of 77-1-801, 77-1-806, or
29 rules adopted under 77-1-804 must be deposited in the state general fund.

30 (9) The department of revenue shall deposit in the state general fund one-half of the money received

1 from the fines imposed pursuant to Title 87, chapter 6.

2 (10) (a) The department shall deposit all money received from the search and rescue surcharge in
3 87-2-202 in a state special revenue account to the credit of the department for search and rescue purposes as
4 provided for in 10-3-801.

5 (b) Upon certification by the department of reimbursement requests submitted by the department of
6 military affairs for search and rescue missions involving persons engaged in hunting, fishing, or trapping, the
7 department may transfer funds from the special revenue account to the search and rescue account provided for
8 in 10-3-801 to reimburse counties for the costs of those missions as provided in 10-3-801.

9 (c) Using funds in the department's search and rescue account that are not already committed to
10 reimbursement for search and rescue missions, the department may provide matching funds to the department
11 of military affairs to reimburse counties for search and rescue training and equipment costs up to the proportion
12 that the number of search and rescue missions involving persons engaged in hunting, fishing, or trapping bears
13 to the statewide total of search and rescue missions.

14 (d) Any money deposited in the special revenue account is available for reimbursement of search and
15 rescue missions and to provide matching funds to reimburse counties for search and rescue training and
16 equipment costs."

17

18 **Section 4.** Section 87-2-903, MCA, is amended to read:

19 **"87-2-903. Compensation, fees, and duties of agents -- penalty for late submission of license**
20 **money.** (1) License agents, except salaried employees of the department, must receive for all services rendered
21 a commission of 50 cents for each transaction, plus any additional amount as determined under subsection (9)
22 and by rules adopted pursuant to subsection (10).

23 (2) A license agent may charge a convenience fee of up to 3% of the total amount of a transaction if a
24 purchase is made with a credit card or a debit card. A financial institution or credit card company may not prohibit
25 collection of the convenience fee provided for in this subsection.

26 (3) Each license agent shall submit to the department the money received from the sale of licenses and
27 donations received pursuant to [section 1], less the appropriate commission and convenience fee.

28 (4) Each license agent shall submit to the department copies of each paper license sold.

29 (5) The department may charge license agents appointed after March 1, 1998, an electronic license
30 system fee not to exceed actual costs.

1 (6) The department may designate classes of license agents and may establish a protocol for each class
2 of agent. Each license agent shall keep the license account open at all reasonable hours to inspection by the
3 department, the director, the wardens, or the legislative auditor.

4 (7) For purposes of this section, the term "transaction" includes the sale of any license or permit,
5 collection of any data or fee, or issuance of any certificate prescribed by the department. The term does not
6 include donations collected pursuant to [section 1].

7 (8) If a license agent fails to submit to the department all money received from the declared sale of
8 licenses and from donations received pursuant to [section 1], less the appropriate commission and convenience
9 fee, by the deadline established by the department, an interest charge equal to the rate charged under 15-1-216
10 may be assessed. Acceptance of late payments with interest does not preclude the department from summarily
11 revoking the appointment of a license agent under 87-2-904.

12 (9) A license agent, except for an electronic service provider, must receive a commission of 50 cents for
13 each ticket the agent processes for a hunting license lottery held pursuant to 87-1-271.

14 (10) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this section."
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16 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction.** (1) [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
17 integral part of Title 87, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

18 (2) [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 87, chapter 1, part 6, and the
19 provisions of Title 87, chapter 1, part 6, apply to [section 2].
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21 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2013.
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