

SENATE BILL NO. 189

INTRODUCED BY M. PHILLIPS

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT FUNDING FOR WOLF MANAGEMENT MAY BE USED FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT WOLVES; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-1-623 AND 87-1-625, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 87-1-623, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-1-623. Wolf management account. (1) There is a wolf management account in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102. Fees collected from the sale of Class E-1 and Class E-2 wolf licenses and interest earned on the account must be deposited into the account. Subject to appropriation by the legislature, money deposited in the account must be used exclusively for the management of wolves ~~as specified in subsection (2).~~

~~(2) Money deposited in accordance with subsection (1) must be equally divided and allocated for the following purposes~~ For the purposes of this section, the term "management" has the same meaning provided in 87-5-102 and includes:

- ~~(a) wolf-collaring activities conducted pursuant to 87-5-132; and~~
 - ~~(b) lethal action conducted pursuant to 87-1-217 to take problem wolves that attack livestock; and~~
 - ~~(c) public education about wolves.~~
- (3) Any unspent or unencumbered money in the account at the end of a fiscal year must remain in the account."

Section 2. Section 87-1-625, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-1-625. Funding for wolf management. (1) The department shall allocate \$900,000 annually for wolf management.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term "management" has the same meaning provided in 87-5-102 and includes:

- (a) wolf collaring conducted pursuant to 87-5-132; and



1 (b) lethal action conducted pursuant to 87-1-217 to take problem wolves that attack livestock; and
2 (c) public education about wolves.

3 (3) Not more than 25% of the total funding allocated under this section may be used for administrative
4 costs.

5 (4) Pursuant to 87-1-201, the department may allocate funds from any source to meet the requirements
6 of this section.

7 (5) The department may contract with the United States department of agriculture wildlife services and
8 county governments for the purposes of this section."

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10 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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- END -