

SENATE BILL NO. 232

INTRODUCED BY P. CONNELL

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAIL PASS; REQUIRING A RESIDENT OWNER OF AN OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TO ANNUALLY PURCHASE AND DISPLAY A TRAIL PASS IN ORDER TO OPERATE THE VEHICLE OFF ROAD ON PUBLIC LANDS; IMPOSING A FEE FOR THE TRAIL PASS AND REQUIRING MONEY COLLECTED TO BE USED FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO DISPLAY THE TRAIL PASS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Off-highway vehicle trail pass -- fees -- penalties.** (1) To be eligible to operate an off-highway vehicle for off-road recreation on public land in Montana, a resident owner of the off-highway vehicle shall first purchase an off-highway vehicle trail pass for \$10.

(2) The trail pass expires on December 31 each year.

(3) A trail pass decal for the year in which the pass is in effect must be affixed to the off-highway vehicle in a conspicuous place.

(4) Application for the issuance of the trail pass must be made at locations and on forms prescribed by the department.

(5) Money collected by payment of fees under this section must be deposited in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks and used as follows:

- (a) \$2 must be used by the department for off-highway vehicle ethics and safety education;
- (b) \$1 must be remitted to the vendor who sold the trail pass if the vendor is not the department;
- (c) 75 cents must be used by the department to mitigate and eradicate noxious weeds along off-highway vehicle trails; and
- (d) the remainder must be used by the department for off-highway trail grants that involve new trail construction, trail structures and informational signs, trail clearing, trail improvement, and maintaining tread.

(6) The failure to affix the trail pass as required by this section or the making of false statements in obtaining the trail pass is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$100.



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2 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
3 integral part of Title 23, chapter 2, part 8, and the provisions of Title 23, chapter 2, part 8, apply to [section 1].

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5 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

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