Signed by the Speaker at 8:21 a.m., April 26, 2019: HB 413, HB 443, HB 507, HB 598, HB 608, HB 654, HB 726, HB 731, HB 745, HB 749, HB 753, HB 763.
Signed by the Speaker at 8:40 a.m., April 26, 2019: HB 268, HB 311, HB 423, HB 432, HB 553, HB 607, HB 632, HB 656, HB 680, HB 717, HB 719, HB 748, HB 751, HB 756, HB 757, HJR 23.
Signed by the Speaker at 9:40 a.m., April 26, 2019: HB 6, HB 7, HB 9, HB 11, HB 34, HB 39, HB 111, HB 146, HB 231, HB 262, HB 288, HB 376, HB 393, HB 416, HB 481, HB 502, HB 514, HB 523, HB 576, HB 590, HB 617.
Signed by the Speaker at 11:10 a.m., April 26, 2019: HR 3, HR 4, HR 5.
Signed by the Speaker at 11:15 a.m., April 26, 2019: HB 265, HB 332.
Signed by the Speaker at 11:19 a.m., April 26, 2019: HB 567.
Signed by the Speaker at 11:50 a.m., April 26, 2019: HB 369.
Signed by the Speaker at 11:52 a.m., April 26, 2019: HB 433, HB 694, HJR 48, HJR 49, HJR 50.
Signed by the Speaker at 1:00 p.m., April 26, 2019: HB 643, HB 657, HB 658, HB 661, HB 669, HB 676, HB 684, HB 696, HB 716, HB 722, HB 723, HB 727, HB 732, HB 754, HJR 12, HJR 29, HJR 31, HJR 34, HJR 36, HJR 38, HJR 43, HJR 45.
Signed by the Speaker at 2:10 p.m., April 26, 2019: HB 8, HB 16, HB 21, HB 54, HB 172, HB 260, HB 293, HB 355, HB 389, HB 403, HB 411, HB 439, HB 467, HB 500, HB 515, HB 532, HB 534, HB 555, HB 599, HB 626, HB 636, HB 640.
Signed by the Chief Clerk of the House at 9:00 a.m., April 30, 2019: HB 268, HB 311, HB 413, HB 423, HB 432, HB 443, HB 507, HB 553, HB 598, HB 607, HB 608, HB 632, HB 654, HB 656, HB 680, HB 717, HB 719, HB 726, HB 731, HB 745, HB 748, HB 749, HB 751, HB 753, HB 756, HB 757, HB 763, HJR 23.
Signed by the Chief Clerk of the House at 11:30 a.m., April 30, 2019: HR 3, HR 4, HR 5.
Signed by the Chief Clerk of the House at 12:10 p.m., April 30, 2019: HB 369, HB 433, HB 694, HJR 48, HJR 49, HJR 50.
Signed by the President at 10:15 a.m., April 26, 2019: HB 192, HB 323, HB 325, HB 357, HB 487.
Signed by the President at 2:15 p.m., April 26, 2019: HB 3.
Delivered to the Secretary of State at 12:10 a.m., April 26, 2019: HR 3, HR 4, HR 5.
Delivered to the Governor for approval at 2:40 p.m., April 26, 2019: HB 3, HB 192, HB 323, HB 325, HB 476, HB 487.

BILLS (Ricci, Chair):


Delivered to the Secretary of State at 4:33 p.m., April 30, 2019: HB 244, HB 245, HB 357, HJR 14, HJR 18, HJR 24, HJR 27.

BILLs (Ricci, Chair): 5/1/2019

Correctly enrolled: HB 2.
Delivered to the Secretary of State at 11:25 a.m., May 1, 2019: HJR 10, HJR 12, HJR 17, HJR 20, HJR 23, HJR 26, HJR 28, HJR 29, HJR 31, HJR 32, HJR 34, HJR 35, HJR 36, HJR 38, HJR 39, HJR 40, HJR 43, HJR 45, HJR 48, HJR 49, HJR 50, HJR 56.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

April 25, 2019

The Honorable Greg Hertz
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Hertz:

On Thursday, April 25, 2019, I signed the following bill House Bill 318—Garner.

Sincerely,

STATE INTERNET/BBS COPY
April 26, 2019

The Honorable Greg Hertz  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Hertz:

On Friday, April 26, 2019, I signed the following bills:

- House Bill 347—Greef  
- House Bill 461—Keogh  
- House Bill 520—Shaw  
- House Bill 586—Hamlett  
- House Bill 604—Karjala

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor

April 29, 2019

The Honorable Greg Hertz  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Hertz:

On Monday, April 29, 2019, I signed House Bill 3—Holmlund.

I vetoed House Bill 132—Holmlund.

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor

April 29, 2019
The Honorable Greg Hertz
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

The Honorable Scott Sales
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Hertz and President Sales:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 132, "AN ACT CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF "WILD BUFFALO" OR "WILD BISON"; CLARIFYING THAT THE PER CAPITA FEE DOES NOT APPLY TO CERTAIN DOMESTIC BISON; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-24-921, 81-1-101, 87-2-101, AND 87-6-101, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE" for the following reasons.

As originally drafted, HB 132 attempted to clarify definitions related to bison. With changes added through the legislative process, however, the bill creates more confusion than clarity.

The current definition of a wild bison is one that "has not been reduced to captivity and is not owned by a person." This definition is well-settled. It was previously approved by the legislature, and the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the Department of Livestock have had no difficulty interpreting it as they administer state laws related to bison.

House Bill 132 abandons this workable definition for a totally new one. Under the bill, a wild bison must meet all the following conditions: "it has not been reduced to captivity;" "it has never been subject to the per capita fee under 15-24-921;" and "it has never been owned by a person." The bill does not say whether conditions would apply to a herd, a single animal, or to an animal's offspring.

Though well-intentioned, these changes present significant, adverse consequences for bison management in Montana.

Bison widely considered to be wild, such as those in Yellowstone National Park, are often captured, handled, tested, and quarantined for health monitoring, biological sampling, transplant and relocation, and other research and management purposes. They are also descendants of animals once owned and reduced to captivity.

Under the new terms of HB 132, these bison, and others around the state, could be inappropriately deemed "domestic." This would threaten the preservation of their genetics and their conservation both within and beyond the Park's boundaries. Inappropriate reclassification of wild bison as domestic would also jeopardize state and tribal treaty hunting for bison. Domestic animals cannot
be hunted.

I proposed a series of simple amendments that would clarify the definition of wild bison and resolve the issues posed by HB 132. The legislature rejected these amendments. As a result, the problems with HB 132 and its new definition of wild bison remain. If it becomes law in its current form, HB 132 will create an unacceptable level of confusion and uncertainty around bison management. It will threaten the bison hunts. And it is inconsistent with long-established practices around the management and research-capture of bison and other wildlife species. In short, it is simply unworkable for our state.

For these reasons, I veto HB 132.

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor