

SENATE BILL NO. 79

INTRODUCED BY S. HINEBAUCH

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING HOW BONUS POINTS ARE DETERMINED FOR PARTY APPLICATIONS FOR HUNTING LICENSES, TAGS, AND PERMITS; AMENDING SECTION 87-2-117, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 87-2-117, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-2-117. License bonus point system. (1) The commission shall establish a bonus point system that gives an applicant who has purchased more bonus points more chances to receive a hunting license, tag, or permit over an applicant who has purchased fewer bonus points.

(2) A person may purchase only one bonus point per species per license year and may:

(a) purchase a bonus point when applying for a license, tag, or permit by paying the fee established in 87-2-113(2) per species; or

(b) purchase a bonus point without applying for a license, tag, or permit by paying the fee established in subsection (5). An applicant not applying for a license, tag, or permit may purchase a bonus point only between July 1 and September 30 in the current license year.

(3) The department may only apply any accumulated bonus points to a person's chance to obtain a license, tag, or permit if the person purchases a bonus point when applying for the license, tag, or permit.

(4) Bonus points may only be applied to first choice drawings.

(5) (a) A resident who does not apply for a license, tag, or permit may purchase a bonus point for \$15 for each species for which a bonus point is made available by the commission.

(b) A nonresident who does not apply for a license, tag, or permit may purchase a bonus point for \$25 for each species for which a bonus point is made available by the commission, except that the fee is \$75 for moose, mountain goat, mountain sheep, and wild buffalo or bison.

(6) The department may not delete a person's accumulated bonus points unless the person obtains the license, tag, or permit associated with the bonus points, in which case the department shall delete the person's

1 accumulated bonus points.

2 (7) ~~(a) The~~ Except as provided in subsection (7)(b), the department shall square the number of points
3 purchased by a person per species when conducting drawings for licenses, tags, and permits.

4 (b) For persons applying for licenses, tags, or permits as a party, the department shall calculate the
5 average number of bonus points accumulated by the individuals listed on the party application, rounded to the
6 nearest whole number, and square the average. Each individual retains their own bonus points unless the party
7 obtains the licenses, tags, or permits associated with the bonus points, in which case the department shall delete
8 each person's accumulated bonus points."

9

10 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2019.

11

- END -