

SENATE BILL NO. 186

INTRODUCED BY M. PHILLIPS

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING CONTESTS FOR PREDATORY ANIMALS; AMENDING SECTION 87-6-214, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 87-6-214, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-6-214. Unlawful contest or prize. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c), a person, firm, or club may not offer or give a prize, gift, or anything of value in connection with or as a bag limit prize for the taking, capturing, killing, or in any manner acquiring any game, fowl, or fur-bearing animal, any predatory animal as defined in 81-7-101, or any bird or animal protected by law.

(b) A prize may be awarded for any one game bird or fur-bearing animal on the basis of size, quality, or rarity.

(c) A person may conduct or sponsor a contest for which the monetary prize, certificate, or award does not exceed \$50 for a person who kills a game animal possessing the largest antlers or horns, carrying the greatest weight, or having the longest body or any similar contest based upon the size or weight of a game animal or part of a game animal. The monetary restriction provided in this subsection (1)(c) does not apply to recognition given by a nationally established and recognized Boone and Crockett trophy institute.

(2) A person convicted of a violation of this section shall be fined not less than \$50 or more than \$1,000 or be imprisoned in the county detention center for not more than 6 months, or both. In addition, the person, upon conviction or forfeiture of bond or bail, may be subject to forfeiture of any current hunting, fishing, or trapping license issued by this state and the privilege to hunt, fish, or trap in this state or to use state lands, as defined in 77-1-101, for recreational purposes for a period of time set by the court."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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