

MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION

LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting. (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)) The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes.

Legislation can be complex and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.

Background Materials and Research

Topic Summary: The Montana Legislature considered requiring residents to take a trapper safety and education course before being eligible to trap furbearing animals in multiple sessions but did not enact the policy. The bills offered in 2007, 2009, and 2011 were the same and provided exceptions for persons who previously purchased a trapper’s license. In 2005, [House Bill 603](#) proposed different language regarding the substance of the mandatory trapper education course and proposed giving the Fish and Wildlife Commission authority to adopt rules on best management practices for trapping.

No legislation has been proposed since 2011. The Fish and Wildlife Commission considered establishing a mandatory trapper education requirement by rule in August 2017 but opted not to proceed.

Other Materials:

- [Trapping and Furbearer Management in Montana](#): this FWP web page includes links to information about best management practices by species, statewide furbearer harvest and management reports, regulations, [trapping ethics](#), species identification, and the [Montana Trapper Education Program](#).
- [National Trapper’s Association Trapping Handbook](#)
- [Cover sheet](#) from the Fish and Wildlife Commission’s August 2017 proposal for furbearer and trapping regulations, seasons, and quotas, including a proposal for mandatory trapper education. A [summary of public comments](#) received on that proposal is also available.

Introduced Legislation

2011

[House Bill No. 475](#) – (S) Died in Process - AN ACT REQUIRING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A TRAPPER SAFETY AND EDUCATION COURSE AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A CLASS C RESIDENT

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TRAPPING LICENSE; PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-2-102 AND 87-2-105, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.

2009

[House Bill No. 62](#) – (S) Died in Standing Committee - AN ACT REQUIRING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A TRAPPER SAFETY AND EDUCATION COURSE AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A TRAPPING LICENSE TO A MONTANA RESIDENT 12 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER; PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-2-102 AND 87-2-105, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.

2007

[House Bill No. 71](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee - AN ACT REQUIRING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A TRAPPER SAFETY AND EDUCATION COURSE AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A TRAPPING LICENSE TO A MONTANA RESIDENT 12 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-2-102 AND 87-2-105, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.

2005

[House Bill No. 603](#) – (H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal - AN ACT REQUIRING TRAPPER SAFETY AND EDUCATION COURSES AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE ISSUANCE OF TRAPPING LICENSES FOR INDIVIDUALS 12 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER; ALLOWING THE ADOPTION OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR TRAPPING BY THE FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS COMMISSION; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 87-1-301 AND 87-2-105, MCA.

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