

HOUSE BILL NO. 517, 2019 Montana Legislature, with suggested modifications made by the Montana Trappers Association's Education Committee

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO TRAPPER EDUCATION; ESTABLISHING COURSE STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND AMENDING SECTION 87-2-102, MCA."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Trapper education -- instructor certification -- rulemaking.

(1) The department shall provide a trapper education course approved by the commission that incorporates the Montana Trappers Association's trapper education manual and includes classroom and field instruction. The course may include but is not limited to instruction in trapping ethics, best management practices, equipment, regulations, avoidance of nontarget species, benefits of target species and their role in the ecosystem.

(2) While all individuals who trap in Montana are encouraged to complete Montana's Trapper Education Program, the following individuals are not required to complete the Program in order to purchase a Montana trapping license:

- (a) If individuals have completed the advanced level of the Youth Trapper Camp, Inc. program.
- (b) Individuals born before January 1, 1985.

(3) To successfully complete a trapper education course, a person must pass a final exam. Upon successful completion, the department shall issue that person a certificate of completion.

(4) To be certified to teach a trapper education course pursuant to this section, an instructor shall:

- (a) Pass a background check conducted by the department;
- (b) Be deemed competent to give instruction in trapping and designated as an instructor by a committee composed of equal representation from the trapping community and personnel knowledgeable in trapping from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks;
- (c) Apprentice teach with a certified instructor at least two complete trapper education courses and be recommended for certification by that instructor.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 87, chapter 2, part 1, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 1, apply to (sections 1 and 2)