

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MONTANA MINING DAY."
5

6 WHEREAS, the state motto of Montana, adopted on February 9, 1865, is "oro y plata", which is
7 Spanish for "gold and silver", and reflects our mining heritage and vast mineral wealth; and

8 WHEREAS, the Great Seal of the state of Montana is a vivid symbol of all that is special about our
9 state and includes the state motto and a miner's pick and shovel; and

10 WHEREAS, the nickname of Montana is "the Treasure State", which was chosen because of the state's
11 vast mineral resources; and

12 WHEREAS, gold was first discovered in Montana in the 1850s, leading to major finds at Bannack,
13 Virginia City, Silver Bow Creek, and Prickly Pear Creek; and

14 WHEREAS, these major finds brought many of the first settlers and developers to Montana, leading to
15 its early economic and societal growth and the discovery and development of many other deposits of metals
16 and minerals, including coal, silver, and copper; and

17 WHEREAS, mining in Montana subsequently grew and supplied the nation with much of its mineral
18 resource needs, including copper from Butte that was smelted in Anaconda and refined in Great Falls, and
19 which powered the electrification of America and fueled the country's victorious efforts in both World Wars; and

20 WHEREAS, the mining of lignite and bituminous coal from eastern Montana coal beds heated homes
21 and fired steam-powered locomotives in the early 20th century and continues to provide the largest share of
22 Montana's electricity generation; and

23 WHEREAS, Montana's placer, underground, and surface mining employed thousands at hundreds of
24 mines, producing billions in wealth; and

25 WHEREAS, the mining industry continues to contribute billions of dollars to Montana's economy,
26 creating thousands of permanent jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenues to the state and local communities
27 each year; and

28 WHEREAS, there have been thousands of miners who died in the early days of Montana mining, but

1 whose deaths have led to world-leading safety and labor standards for workers today; and

2 WHEREAS, there have been historic environmental and social impacts from mining in Montana that
3 have led to world-leading environmental regulations and financial assurances for the protection of our
4 environment and communities; and

5 WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature authorized in 1893 the creation of the Montana State School of
6 Mines in Butte, now known as Montana Technological University (Montana Tech), which continues to be one of
7 the nation's leading schools in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and mining of natural
8 resources today; and

9 WHEREAS, Montana continues to hold significant deposits of minerals, including those critical for our
10 nation's current and future defense, economic and technological advancement, and energy transition and
11 security; and

12 WHEREAS, our state is proud of its heritage, its present, and its future in mining and mineral
13 processing and believes it is vital to promote and educate the public about the costs and benefits of responsible
14 mining in Montana sufficiently and accurately.

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

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18 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Montana mining day.** There is established a mining day for the state of
19 Montana. The Montana mining day is February 9 of each year to commemorate when the territorial government
20 adopted the state motto.

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22 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
23 integral part of Title 1, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 1, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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