

HOUSE BILL NO. 283

INTRODUCED BY T. RUNNING WOLF, L. SCHUBERT, B. EDWARDS, J. ISALY, M. LEE, P. STRAND, J. SECKINGER, B. CLOSE, R. GREGG, J. SOOKTIS, M. CUNNINGHAM, T. MILLETT, E. MATTHEWS, S. WEBBER, M. FOX, G. LAMMERS, T. FRANCE, D. HAWK, B. MITCHELL, S. MORIGEAU, E. STAFMAN, Z. WIRTH, P. FIELDER, M. MARLER, S. DEMAROIS, J. HINKLE, J. LYNCH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PERMITTING THE ISSUANCE OF MOUNTAIN SHEEP AND SHIRAS MOOSE TAGS THROUGH A LOTTERY; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-2-722 AND 87-2-724, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 87-2-722, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-2-722. Auction or lottery of mountain sheep license. (1) The commission may issue one male mountain sheep license each year through a competitive auction or lottery. The commission shall promulgate rules for the use of the license and conduct of the auction or lottery. A wildlife conservation organization involved in the conservation of mountain sheep may be authorized by the commission to conduct the license auction or lottery, in which case the authorized organization may retain proceeds of the sale, not to exceed 10%, to cover reasonable auction or lottery expenses.

(2) All proceeds remaining from the auction or lottery, whether conducted by the commission or as otherwise authorized by the commission, must be used by the department for the substantial benefit of mountain sheep. The proceeds from the auction must be used in addition to any other funds the department uses for the management of mountain sheep. The department shall report the use or investment of auction or lottery proceeds to the office of budget and program planning as a part of the information required by 17-7-111."

Section 2. Section 87-2-724, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-2-724. Auction or lottery of Shiras moose license. (1) The commission may issue one male Shiras moose license each year through a competitive auction or lottery. The commission shall promulgate

1 rules for the use of the license and conduct of the auction or lottery. A wildlife conservation organization
2 involved in the conservation of moose may be authorized by the commission to conduct the license auction or
3 lottery, in which case the authorized organization may retain up to 10% of the proceeds of the sale to cover
4 reasonable auction or lottery expenses.

5 (2) All proceeds remaining from the auction or lottery, whether conducted by the commission or as
6 otherwise authorized by the commission, must be used by the department for the substantial benefit of moose.
7 The proceeds from the auction or lottery must be used in addition to any other funds the department uses for
8 the management of moose."

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10 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective March 1, 2026.

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