

HOUSE BILL NO. 176

INTRODUCED BY S. MANESS, L. SCHUBERT, E. ALBUS, T. SHARP, R. GREGG, C. COCHRAN, E.
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HINKLE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING WOLF HUNTING LAWS; ~~REQUIRING ALLOWING~~
~~REQUIRING~~ AN UNLIMITED GRAY WOLF HUNTING QUOTA WHEN THE WOLF POPULATION IS 450-550
WOLVES OR HIGHER; ~~PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION FOR THE AREA NEAR YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL~~
~~PARK; REQUIRING PROVIDING~~ REQUIRING THAT THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO MAY
AUTHORIZE CERTAIN HUNTING AND TRAPPING PRACTICES WHEN THE POPULATION IS ABOVE 550
WOLVES; ~~PROVIDING THAT THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION EMPLOY CERTAIN~~ DURING THE
UNLIMITED QUOTA THE ISSUANCE OF MULTIPLE WOLF LICENSES TO APPLICANTS, THE HARVEST
OF AN UNLIMITED NUMBER OF WOLVES BY A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL, THE USE OF BAIT FOR WOLF
HUNTING OR TRAPPING, AND THE HUNTING OF WOLVES ON PRIVATE LAND OUTSIDE OF DAYLIGHT
HOURS WITH THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT OR NIGHT VISION SCOPES; ~~PROVIDING THAT THE FISH~~
~~AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION EMPLOY CERTAIN~~ HUNTING AND TRAPPING PRACTICES WHEN THE
POPULATION IS BETWEEN 450 AND 550 WOLVES; REQUIRING DATA CONSISTENCY IN DETERMINING
WOLF POPULATIONS USING INTEGRATED PATCH OCCUPANCY MODELS; AND AMENDING SECTION
87-1-901, MCA."

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

Section 1. Section 87-1-901, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-1-901. Gray wolf management -- rulemaking -- reporting. (1) Except as provided in subsection
(3), the commission shall establish by rule hunting and trapping seasons for wolves with the intent to reduce the
wolf population in ~~this the~~ state to a sustainable level, ~~but not less than the number of wolves necessary to~~
~~support at least 15 breeding pairs~~ 450 wolves, which is the sustainable number of wolves that allows the state
to retain a delisted status for wolves. Trapping seasons must allow for the use of snares by the holder of a

1 trapping license.

2 (2) (A) For game management purposes, the commission ~~may apply different management~~
3 ~~techniques depending on the conditions in each administrative region with the most liberal harvest regulations~~
4 ~~applied in regions with the greatest number of wolves shall~~ MAY SHALL institute an unlimited statewide quota
5 when the total population in the state equals or exceeds 450-550 wolves, EXCEPT IN AN AREA IMMEDIATELY
6 ADJACENT TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2)(C). In doing so, the commission ~~may~~
7 ~~shall~~ MAY SHALL authorize:

8 (a)(i) ~~the issuance of more than one Class E-1 or Class E-2 wolf hunting license to an applicant;~~

9 (b)(ii) ~~(i) the trapping or snaring of more than one wolf by the holder of a trapping license;~~

10 (c)(iii) ~~(ii)~~ the harvest of an unlimited number of wolves by the holder of a single wolf hunting or
11 wolf trapping license;

12 (d)(iv) ~~(iii)~~ during the wolf trapping season, the use of bait while hunting or trapping wolves as
13 long as no trap or snare trap is set within 30 feet of exposed bait visible from above; and

14 (e)(v) ~~(iv)~~ the hunting of wolves on private lands outside of daylight hours with the use of artificial
15 light or night vision scopes.

16 (B) WHEN THE TOTAL POPULATION EXCEEDS 450 BUT IS LESS THAN 550, THE COMMISSION ~~SHALL~~ MAY
17 APPLY DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES DEPENDING ON THE CONDITIONS IN EACH ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT. THE
18 MOST LIBERAL HARVEST REGULATIONS MUST BE APPLIED IN DISTRICTS WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF WOLVES. IN
19 DOING SO, THE COMMISSION ~~SHALL~~ MAY AUTHORIZE:

20 (i) THE ISSUANCE OF MORE THAN ONE CLASS E-1 OR CLASS E-2 WOLF HUNTING LICENSE TO AN
21 APPLICANT;

22 (ii) THE TRAPPING OR SNARING OF MORE THAN ONE WOLF BY THE HOLDER OF A TRAPPING LICENSE;

23 (iii) THE HARVEST OF AN UNLIMITED NUMBER OF WOLVES BY THE HOLDER OF A SINGLE WOLF HUNTING OR
24 WOLF TRAPPING LICENSE;

25 (iv) DURING THE WOLF TRAPPING SEASON, THE USE OF BAIT WHILE HUNTING OR TRAPPING WOLVES AS
26 LONG AS NO TRAP OR SNARE TRAP IS SET WITHIN 30 FEET OF EXPOSED BAIT VISIBLE FROM ABOVE; AND

27 (v) THE HUNTING OF WOLVES ON PRIVATE LANDS OUTSIDE OF DAYLIGHT HOURS WITH THE USE OF
28 ARTIFICIAL LIGHT OR NIGHT VISION SCOPES.

