

**Amendment - 1st Reading/2nd House-blue - Requested by: Jedediah Hinkle - (H) Fish,
Wildlife and Parks**

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Maxwell Parson,

SB0063.001.001

SENATE BILL NO. 63

INTRODUCED BY P. FLOWERS

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT RESTRICTING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC MOTION-TRACKING
DEVICES AND MECHANISMS WHILE HUNTING; AMENDING SECTION 87-6-401, MCA; AND PROVIDING
AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 87-6-401, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-6-401. Unlawful use of equipment while hunting. (1) A person may not:

(a) hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird by the aid or with the use of any snare,
except as allowed in 87-3-127 and 87-3-128, set gun, projected artificial light, trap, salt lick, or bait;

(b) use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls or sounds or recorded or
electrically amplified imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to hunt wildlife except for predatory animals,
wolves, and those birds not protected by state or federal law;

(c) while hunting, use any device or mechanism devised to silence, muffle, or minimize the report
of any firearm, whether the device or mechanism is operated from or attached to any firearm. This subsection
(1)(c) does not prohibit the use of a device or mechanism registered with the bureau of alcohol, tobacco,
firearms and explosives to silence, muffle, or minimize the report of a firearm when hunting wildlife.

(d) while hunting or within the same calendar day that a person intends to hunt or has hunted, use
any electronic motion-tracking device or mechanism, as defined by commission rule, that ~~is designed to track~~
~~the motion of a game animal and relay information on the animal's movement to the hunter~~ relays information to
the hunter on the movement of any game animal, fur-bearing animal, upland game bird, or migratory game bird
to the hunter located in the same district that the hunter intends to hunt or has hunted. A person may not
communicate the location of any game animal, fur-bearing animal, upland game bird, or migratory game bird to

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1 another person as an aid to hunting within the same calendar day of using an electronic motion-tracking device
2 or mechanism to locate the animal or bird. A radio-tracking collar attached to a dog that is used by a hunter
3 engaged in lawful hunting activities is not considered a motion-tracking device or mechanism for purposes of
4 this subsection (1)(d). This subsection (1)(d) does not apply to a person using any electronic motion-tracking
5 device for the protection of the person's private property, to support an agricultural operation, or for other
6 legitimate nonhunting purposes.

7 (e) while hunting, use archery equipment that has been prohibited by rule of the commission;

8 (f) use a shotgun to hunt deer or elk except with weapon type and loads as specified by the
9 department;

10 (g) use a rifle to hunt or shoot upland game birds unless the use of rifles is permitted by the
11 department. This does not prohibit the shooting of wild waterfowl from blinds over decoys with a shotgun only,
12 not larger than a number 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder.

13 (h) use a rifle to hunt or shoot wild turkey during the spring wild turkey season; or

14 (i) during the special muzzleloader heritage hunting season established in 87-1-304, use a
15 muzzleloading rifle that requires insertion of a cap or primer into the open breech of the barrel, is capable of
16 being loaded from the breech, or is mounted with an optical magnification device. Use of preprepared paper or
17 metallic cartridges, sabots, gas checks, or other similar power and range-enhancing manufactured loads that
18 enclose the projectile from the rifling or bore of the firearm is also prohibited.

19 (2) A person convicted of a violation of this section shall be fined not less than \$50 or more than
20 \$1,000 or be imprisoned in the county detention center for not more than 6 months, or both. In addition, the
21 person, upon conviction or forfeiture of bond or bail, may be subject to forfeiture of any current hunting, fishing,
22 or trapping license issued by this state and the privilege to hunt, fish, or trap in this state or to use state lands,
23 as defined in 77-1-101, for recreational purposes for a period of time set by the court.

24 (3) A person convicted of hunting while using projected artificial light as described in subsection
25 (1)(a) may be subject to the additional penalties provided in 87-6-901 through 87-6-903.

26 (4) A violation of this section may also result in an order to pay restitution pursuant to 87-6-905
27 through 87-6-907."