

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 544

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO WOLVES; AMENDING CHAPTER 4, TITLE 36, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION
2 OF A NEW SECTION 36-409B, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE INTENT,
3 TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEPOSIT OF CERTAIN PROCEEDS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE WOLF
4 DEPREDATION ACCOUNT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSFER OF PROCEEDS BY THE DE-
5 PARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, TO PROVIDE THAT MONEYS ARE SUBJECT TO APPRO-
6 PRIATION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE RETURN OF INTEREST EARNED TO THE ACCOUNT,
7 TO PROVIDE FOR THE DIVISION AND USE OF MONEYS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE
8 ADMINISTRATION OF DEPREDATION PAYMENTS TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS BY THE
9 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

12 SECTION 1. That Chapter 4, Title 36, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
13 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
14 ignated as Section 36-409B, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

15 36-409B. LEGISLATIVE INTENT -- WOLF DEPREDATION ACCOUNT. (1) Wolves
16 forced upon Idaho in 1995 by the federal government and the U.S. fish and
17 wildlife service have created unwarranted hardship and economic harm to
18 wildlife, hunters, outfitters, the Idaho department of fish and game and
19 livestock producers. Federal funding has never been adequate compensation
20 for the damages incurred due to wolf depredation. An environmental group
21 broke their original agreement to pay livestock producers for damages when
22 they pursued wolf reintroduction. On two (2) occasions, the same group suc-
23 cessfully sued to keep wolves on the federal endangered species list, which
24 denied management of the aggressive predator for years, creating additional
25 expenses and loss. The legislature believes that it is necessary to use pro-
26 ceeds from the sale of wolf tags and the sale of harvested wolves as provided
27 in subsection (2) of this section, to compensate for the shortfall in funding
28 for depredation.

29 (2) Proceeds from the sale of each wolf-related tag including, but not
30 limited to, tags for wolf hunting and trapping, eight dollars (\$8.00) shall
31 be placed in an account to be known as the "Wolf Depredation Account," to be
32 administered by the governor's office of species conservation, to be created
33 in and established in the state treasury for the deposit of such moneys. Pro-
34 ceeds from the sale of any harvested wolf returned to the Idaho department
35 of fish and game due to a depredation action or illegal killing shall also
36 be deposited in the wolf depredation account. The department of fish and
37 game shall transfer proceeds for deposit into the wolf depredation account
38 on July 1 of each year. All moneys so deposited are hereby subject to appro-
39 priation for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section. Any
40 interest earned on the investment of idle moneys in the account shall be re-
41 turned to the account. Upon deposit of the proceeds from the department of
42 fish and game as provided in this subsection, moneys in the account shall

1 be equally divided, fifty percent (50%) of such moneys to be used equally
2 for control actions of depredating wolves on wildlife and livestock, with
3 the livestock portion paid to the Idaho state animal damage control board to
4 be distributed to the respective animal damage control districts, and fifty
5 percent (50%) of such moneys to be used for depredation payments to live-
6 stock producers for losses caused by wolves. Depredation payments to live-
7 stock producers for losses shall be administered by the governor's office of
8 species conservation.

9 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
10 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its
11 passage and approval.