

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 177

2 INTRODUCED BY K. KERNS

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
5 HUMAN SERVICES TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY, PREVENT, AND MONITOR DISEASES
6 CARRIED BY WOLVES THAT MAY AFFECT HUMAN HEALTH; AND REQUIRING DISEASE REPORTING AND
7 PUBLIC OUTREACH."

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

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Policy of state -- wolf diseases.** It is the public policy of the state to:

12 (1) protect persons from diseases carried by wolves; and

13 (2) provide and maintain a program to identify, prevent, and monitor the epidemiological consequences
14 of diseases that may afflict or may be carried by wolves and the actual and potential impact of wolves' role in such
15 diseases upon human health in the state.

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17 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Powers and duties.** (1) The department of public health and human
18 services shall:

19 (a) compile a list of infectious organisms that may infect, afflict, or be carried by wolves. The list must
20 include but is not limited to:

21 (i) rabies;

22 (ii) brucellosis (*Brucella canis*);23 (iii) hydatid disease (*Echinococcus granulosis* or *Echinococcus multilocularis*);24 (iv) plague (*Yersinia pestis*);25 (v) contagious protozoans (*Neospora*, *Toxoplasma*, and *Sarcocystis*);26 (vi) tularemia (*Francisella tularensis*); and27 (vii) round worms (*Toxocara canis*);

28 (b) compile a subset for any disease listed pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of infectious organisms that may
29 afflict humans;

30 (c) identify categories of people by occupation, recreational activity, or other categories who have a high

- 1 risk of exposure to and contracting of the diseases in subsections (1)(a) or (1)(b);
- 2 (d) develop outreach programs about the diseases listed in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) targeted to:
- 3 (i) categories of people identified in subsection (1)(c) as well as the general public to inform them of how
- 4 to avoid infection and to medically assess a possible infection;
- 5 (ii) animal health practitioners to inform them about potential infection of animals, including livestock and
- 6 pets, symptoms, methods of detection and treatment, and reporting requirements; and
- 7 (iii) medical practitioners to inform them about potential infection of humans, symptoms, methods of
- 8 detection and treatment, and reporting requirements;
- 9 (e) test significant samples of people for diseases listed in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) and collect and
- 10 analyze the data to determine to what extent humans in Montana are exposed to diseases related to wolves;
- 11 (f) develop standardized requirements for the human health community and the animal health community
- 12 to ensure that diseases listed in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) are monitored through a centralized system of
- 13 reporting;
- 14 (g) seek assistance in meeting the requirements of this section from the department of fish, wildlife, and
- 15 parks and the state veterinarian;
- 16 (h) post results of testing and monitoring, as well as conclusions and accomplishments, to the
- 17 department website every 6 months; and
- 18 (i) report at least twice a year to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee
- 19 established by 5-5-202.
- 20 (2) The department shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of [section 1] and this section.

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22 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified

23 as an integral part of Title 50, and the provisions of Title 50 apply to [sections 1 and 2].

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