

HOUSE BILL NO. 311

INTRODUCED BY R. PEPPERS

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING VETERANS' PREFERENCE FOR RESERVING CERTAIN BLOCK MANAGEMENT AREAS ON VETERANS' DAY; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING PENALTIES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Veterans' preference for reserving certain block management areas on Veterans' Day.** (1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (2) and (3), on Veterans' Day, veterans are given preference to use block management areas that require a reservation.

(2) A reservation by a veteran to use a block management area pursuant to subsection (1) must be made at least 1 week in advance of Veterans' Day and in accordance with the existing reservation system for that area. Block management areas that require a reservation but are not reserved or fully reserved for use by veterans at least 1 week in advance of Veterans' Day are available for reservation by any hunter on a first-come, first-served basis.

(3) A person who makes a reservation pursuant to this section shall carry proof of the person's veteran status, such as a DD form 214, U.S. department of veterans affairs identification card, or a driver's license indicating the person's veteran status, while hunting on the block management area for which the reservation was made. The person also shall make proof of the person's veteran status available for review by an employee or authorized officer of the department upon request.

(4) The department shall conduct random verification of the veteran status of persons making reservations pursuant to this section.

(5) The department may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

(6) A person who violates this section or a rule adopted pursuant to this section is subject to the penalties provided in [section 2].

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Unlawful hunting on block management area.** A person who purposely, knowingly, or negligently violates [section 1] or a rule adopted pursuant to [section 1] when reserving or using



1 a block management area on Veterans' Day shall be fined not less than \$50 or more than \$500. In addition, the  
2 person, upon conviction or forfeiture of bond or bail, may be subject to forfeiture of any current hunting, fishing,  
3 or trapping license issued by this state and the privilege to hunt, fish, or trap in this state or to use state lands,  
4 as defined in 77-1-101, for recreational purposes for a period of time set by the court.

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6 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction. (1) [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
7 integral part of Title 87, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

8 (2) [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 87, chapter 6, part 4, and the  
9 provisions of Title 87, chapter 6, part 4, apply to [section 2].

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11 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

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