

HOUSE BILL NO. 397

INTRODUCED BY M. REGIER

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO NONRESIDENT ELK AND DEER LICENSE PREFERENCE POINTS; AMENDING SECTION 87-2-115, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 87-2-115, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-2-115. Nonresident elk and deer license preference point system. (1) The department shall establish a preference point system to distribute Class B-10 nonresident big game combination licenses and Class B-11 nonresident deer combination licenses.

(2) In addition to payment of any fees established in 87-2-113, 87-2-505, and 87-2-510, nonresidents applying to purchase a Class B-10 or Class B-11 license may purchase a preference point, upon payment of a nonrefundable \$50 fee, that gives an applicant who has more preference points priority to receive a Class B-10 or Class B-11 license over an applicant who has purchased fewer preference points.

(3) An applicant may:

(a) purchase only one preference point per license year; and

(b) purchase a preference point without applying for a Class B-10 or Class B-11 license. An applicant not applying for a Class B-10 or Class B-11 license may purchase a preference point only between July 1 and September 30 ~~prior to the applicable~~ of that license year. The department shall delete an applicant's accumulated preference points if the applicant does not apply for a Class B-10 or Class B-11 license for ~~2~~ 3 consecutive years.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the department may not delete an applicant's accumulated preference points unless the applicant obtains the license applied for, in which case the department shall delete the applicant's accumulated preference points.

(5) The department shall issue 75% of the Class B-10 and Class B-11 licenses made available for purchase pursuant to 87-2-505 and 87-2-510 by drawings in which the licenses are awarded to applicants in the order of which applicants have purchased the greatest number of preference points. If the number of licenses to be issued under this subsection exceeds the number of applicants who have purchased preference points, the

1 remaining licenses must be added to the licenses issued pursuant to subsection (6).

2 (6) The department shall issue 25% of the Class B-10 and Class B-11 licenses made available for
3 purchase pursuant to 87-2-505 and 87-2-510 by drawings in which the licenses are awarded to applicants who
4 have not purchased any preference points. If the number of licenses to be issued under this subsection exceeds
5 the number of applicants who have not purchased preference points, the remaining licenses must be added to
6 the licenses issued pursuant to subsection (5).

7 (7) Up to five applicants may apply as a party under this section. The department shall use an average
8 of the number of preference points accumulated by those applicants to determine their priority in receiving
9 licenses issued pursuant to subsection (5). The department shall ~~consider~~ use any fraction that results from the
10 calculation of an average when determining that priority."

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12 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective March 1, 2020.

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