



AN ACT PROVIDING THAT SMALL AND SEASONAL ESTABLISHMENTS SUCH AS GUEST RANCHES AND OUTFITTING AND GUIDE FACILITIES ARE SUBJECT TO VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ADDRESSING BASIC HEALTH STANDARDS RATHER THAN REGULATIONS; CLARIFYING THE METHOD OF ESTABLISHING THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF GUESTS PER DAY FOR SEASONAL AND SMALL ESTABLISHMENTS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 50-51-101, 50-51-102, 50-51-103, 50-51-201, AND 50-51-401, MCA.

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

Section 1. Section 50-51-101, MCA, is amended to read:

"50-51-101. Findings and purpose of regulation or guidelines. (1) It is found that the welfare of the public ~~welfare requires control and regulation of~~ is benefited by regulation or voluntary guidelines for the operation of establishments providing lodging space accommodations and ~~the control, inspection, and regulation of~~ for persons providing accommodations in order to prevent or eliminate unsanitary and unhealthful conditions and practices, which conditions and practices may endanger public health. It is further found that the regulation of or application of voluntary guidelines to establishments providing lodging space accommodations is in the interest of social well-being and the health and safety of the state and all of its people.

(2) The legislature recognizes that there is a wide disparity in the type of establishments, especially in the size, the time of year at which the establishments operate, and the ability of small establishments with few employees and a limited operating season to conform to the same standards to which larger establishments are required to conform. These factors must be considered, especially in the operation of small or seasonal businesses that are such an important part of Montana's tourism business. For these reasons, the legislature believes that department ~~rules~~ actions must be tailored to properly and reasonably address differences in the size, location, purpose, and time of year of operation of certain small or seasonal establishments. The legislature believes that ~~rules governing certain small or seasonal establishments must be limited to requirements meant to ensure~~ guidelines to assist these small and seasonal establishments with addressing basic health standards are appropriate, rather than regulations. The guidelines should be voluntary and address basic health standards

and should not detract from the rustic, out-of-doors experience offered by many guest ranches and outfitter and guide facilities and desired by many tourists. The legislature is also aware that most of these small and seasonal establishments such as guest ranches and outfitting and guide facilities have not been subject to department regulation. While voluntary guidance from the department on basic public health concerns may benefit these establishments, regulation is not warranted."

Section 2. Section 50-51-102, MCA, is amended to read:

"50-51-102. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Bed and breakfast" means a private, owner- or manager-occupied residence that is used as a private residence but in which:

- (a) breakfast is served and is included in the charge for a guest room; and
- (b) the number of daily guests served does not exceed 18.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Establishment" means a bed and breakfast, hotel, motel, roominghouse, guest ranch, outfitting and guide facility, boardinghouse, or tourist home.

(4) "Guest ranch" means a facility that:

(a) uses one or more permanent structures, one or more of which have running water, sewage disposal, and a kitchen;

(b) furnishes sleeping accommodations on advance reservations for a minimum stay;

(c) provides hunting, horseback riding, fishing, or a working cattle ranch experience to its guests; and

(d) is a small establishment or a seasonal establishment.

(5) "Hotel" or "motel" includes:

(a) a building or structure kept, used, maintained as, advertised as, or held out to the public to be a hotel, motel, inn, motor court, tourist court, or public lodginghouse;

(b) a place where sleeping accommodations are furnished for a fee to transient guests, with or without meals.

(6) "Outfitting and guide facility" means a facility that:

(a) uses one or more permanent structures, one or more of which have running water, sewage disposal,

and a kitchen;

(b) furnishes sleeping accommodations to guests;

(c) offers hunting, fishing, or recreational services in conjunction with the services of an outfitter or guide, as defined in 37-47-101; and

(d) is a small establishment or a seasonal establishment.

(7) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, association, county, municipality, cooperative group, or other entity engaged in the business of operating, owning, or offering the services of a bed and breakfast, hotel, motel, boardinghouse, tourist home, guest ranch, outfitting and guide facility, or roominghouse.

(8) "Roominghouse" or "boardinghouse" means buildings in which separate sleeping rooms are rented that provide sleeping accommodations for three or more persons on a weekly, semimonthly, monthly, or permanent basis, whether or not meals or central kitchens are provided but without separated cooking facilities or kitchens within each room, and whose occupants do not need professional nursing or personal-care services provided by the facility.

(9) "Seasonal establishment" means a guest ranch or outfitting and guide facility operating for less than 120 days in a calendar year and offering accommodations to between 9 and 40 people on average a day. The average number of people a day is determined by dividing the total number of guests accommodated during the year by the total number of days that the establishment ~~operated~~ was open for the purpose of accommodating guests as a guest ranch or outfitting and guide facility during the year.

(10) "Small establishment" means a guest ranch or an outfitting and guide facility offering accommodations to between 9 and 24 people on average a day. The average number of people a day is determined by dividing the total number of guests accommodated during the year by the total number of days that the establishment ~~operated~~ was open for the purpose of accommodating guests as a guest ranch or outfitting and guide facility during the year.

(11) "Tourist home" means a private home or condominium that is not occupied by an owner or manager and that is rented, leased, or furnished in its entirety to transient guests on a daily or weekly basis.

(12) "Transient guest" means a guest for only a brief stay, such as the traveling public."

Section 3. Section 50-51-103, MCA, is amended to read:

"50-51-103. Department authorized to adopt rules or guidelines. (1) The department may adopt rules governing the operation of bed and breakfasts, hotels, motels, roominghouses, boardinghouses, and tourist homes to protect the public health and safety.

(2) Rules applicable to a bed and breakfast, hotel, motel, roominghouse, boardinghouse, or tourist home may relate to construction, furnishings, housekeeping, personnel, sanitary facilities and controls, water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal systems, refuse collection and disposal, registration and supervision, fire and life safety, food service, staggered license expiration dates, and reimbursement of local governments for inspections and enforcement.

(3) The department ~~shall~~ may not adopt rules governing guest ranches and outfitting and guide facilities that meet the definitions in 50-51-102 but may adopt rules voluntary guidelines for these facilities governing guest ranches and outfitting and guide facilities. The guidelines ~~rules~~ must take into consideration the size, type, location, and seasonal operations of an establishment and may include only ~~rules~~ guidelines to:

- (a) ~~ensure~~ address that the establishment has safe drinking water and an adequate water supply;
- (b) ensure an adequate and sanitary sewage system and ensure adequate and sanitary refuse collection and disposal; and
- (c) address food safety concerns, such as adequate storage, refrigeration, and food handling; and
- (d) ~~establish staggered license expiration dates by implementing an initial licensing period determined by the department.~~

(4) ~~Rules adopted to implement subsection (3) must be adopted through negotiated rulemaking pursuant to the Montana Negotiated Rulemaking Act.~~ These guidelines must be developed through a negotiated process in cooperation with guest ranches and outfitters and guides. These guidelines are not intended to be regulatory in nature.

(5) The department shall develop guidelines for county sanitarians to ~~ensure the uniform application of rules statewide.~~ The guidelines must be relative to each type of establishment provide assistance to guest ranches and outfitters and guides, and the guidelines must be tailored to the needs of each type of establishment.

(6) ~~Upon receiving an application for licensure, the department shall timely provide the applicant with a copy of the rules appropriate for the applicant's type of establishment."~~

Section 4. Section 50-51-201, MCA, is amended to read:

"50-51-201. License required. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person engaged in the business of conducting or operating an establishment shall annually procure a license issued by the department.

(2) A guest ranch or an outfitting and guide facility that ~~does not meet~~ meets the definitions in 50-51-102 and that ~~provides accommodations to fewer than nine people during each day of operation~~ is not required to obtain a license under subsection (1).

~~(3) Guest ranches and outfitting and guide facilities need not apply for a license pursuant to this chapter for the first time until the later of:~~

~~———(a) the completion of negotiated rulemaking and public notification by the department of the necessity for those guest ranches or outfitting and guide facilities to obtain a license pursuant to this chapter; or~~

~~———(b) July 1, 1998.~~

~~(4)~~(3) A separate license is required for each establishment. However, when more than one type of establishment is operated on the same premises and under the same management, only one license is required that must enumerate on the certificate the types of establishments licensed.

~~(5)~~(4) Before a license may be issued by the department, it must be validated by the local health officer or, if there is no local health officer, the sanitarian, in the county where the establishment is located."

Section 5. Section 50-51-401, MCA, is amended to read:

"50-51-401. Civil penalties -- injunctions not barred. (1) An establishment that violates this chapter or rules adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.

~~(2) Penalties may not be assessed against a guest ranch or outfitter and guide facility unless the guest ranch or outfitting and guide facility receives a written notice of a violation and fails to correct the violation within 30 days.~~

~~(3)~~(2) Civil action to impose penalties, as provided under this section, does not bar injunctions to enforce compliance with this chapter or to enforce compliance with a rule adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter."

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 0559, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2011.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2011.

HOUSE BILL NO. 559
INTRODUCED BY J. ESP

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