

HOUSE BILL NO. 74

INTRODUCED BY R. FITZGERALD

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE UPLAND GAME BIRD ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FUND BIRD RELEASES; AMENDING SECTION 87-1-247, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 87-1-247, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-1-247. Upland game bird enhancement program -- authorized use of funds.** (1) Subject to ~~subsections (2) and (3)~~ subsection (2), revenue dedicated to the upland game bird enhancement program pursuant to 87-1-246 must be used by the department to:

(a) prepare and disseminate information to landowners and organizations concerning the upland game bird enhancement program;

(b) review potential upland game bird release sites;

(c) assist applicants in preparing management plans for project areas;

(d) evaluate the upland game bird enhancement program;

(e) develop a strategic plan pursuant to 87-1-251(2)(a);

~~(f) pursuant to subsection (2), release upland game birds in suitable habitat;~~

~~(g)(f)~~ develop, enhance, and conserve upland game bird habitat in Montana; and

~~(h)(g)~~ establish and assist an upland game bird citizens' advisory council pursuant to 87-1-251.

~~(2) (a) At least 15% of the funds collected under 87-1-246 must be set aside each fiscal year for expenditures related to upland game bird releases.~~

~~(b) At least 25% of the funds set aside for upland game bird releases must be spent each year.~~

~~(3)(2)~~ As far as practicable, expenditures made pursuant to subsection (1) must be prioritized by administrative region based on need, taking into consideration any biological, recreational, or economic benefit

1 and the objectives established in a strategic plan developed pursuant to 87-1-251(2)(a)."

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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