

SENATE BILL NO. 207

INTRODUCED BY F. MOORE, WARBURTON, ARTHUN, DE. BARRETT, BROWN, AND STEINBEISSER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THE REGULATION OF ~~WILD AND DOMESTIC BUFFALO OR BISON AS LIVESTOCK; MAKING BUFFALO AND BISON SUBJECT TO ESTRAY LAWS;~~ GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A PERMIT AND INSPECTION SYSTEM FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF ~~BUFFALO OR BISON; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS;~~ AMENDING SECTIONS ~~81-2-702, 81-4-201, 81-4-215, 81-4-306, 81-4-401, 81-4-402, 81-4-601, 81-4-602,~~ AND 81-1-101, 81-2-120, 81-2-121, 81-3-201, 81-4-603, 81-5-101, AND 85-1-104, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

(Refer to Introduced Bill)

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Permit and inspection system for transportation of bison.** (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, the department shall adopt rules imposing a permit and inspection system for the transportation of bison into and out of counties and into and out of the state for the purposes of tracking movement of animals and collecting per capita assessments.

(2) A person who purposely or knowingly transports bison in violation of rules adopted pursuant to this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or both.

**Section 2.** Section 81-1-101, MCA, is amended to read:

**"81-1-101. (Temporary) Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in Title 81, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Bison" means domestic bison, feral bison, or wild bison.

(b) For the purposes of chapter 9, the term does not include buffalo.

~~(2)~~(3) "Board" means the board of livestock provided for in 2-15-3102, except as provided in Title 81, chapter 23.

~~(2)~~(3) "Department" means the department of livestock provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 31.



1 (4) "Domestic bison" means a bison owned by a person.

2 (5) "Feral bison" means a domestic bison or progeny of a domestic bison that has escaped or been  
 3 released from captivity and is running at large and unrestrained on public or private land.

4 (6) "Wild bison" means a bison that has not been reduced to captivity. (Terminates June 30, 2011--sec.  
 5 20, Ch. 361, L. 2009.)

6 **81-1-101. (Effective July 1, 2011) Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in Title 81, the  
 7 following definitions apply:

8 (1) (a) "Bison" means domestic bison, feral bison, or wild bison.

9 (b) For the purposes of chapter 9, the term does not include buffalo.

10 ~~(1)~~(2) "Board" means the board of livestock provided for in 2-15-3102.

11 ~~(2)~~(3) "Department" means the department of livestock provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 31.

12 (4) "Domestic bison" means a bison owned by a person.

13 (5) "Feral bison" means a domestic bison or progeny of a domestic bison that has escaped or been  
 14 released from captivity and is running at large and unrestrained on public or private land.

15 (6) "Wild bison" means a bison that has not been reduced to captivity."

16

17 **Section 3.** Section 81-2-120, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"81-2-120. Management of wild buffalo or wild bison for disease control.** (1) Whenever a publicly  
 19 owned wild buffalo or wild bison from a herd that is infected with a dangerous disease enters the state of Montana  
 20 on public or private land and the disease may spread to persons or livestock or whenever the presence of wild  
 21 buffalo or wild bison may jeopardize Montana's compliance with other state-administered or federally  
 22 administered livestock disease control programs, the department may, under a plan approved by the governor,  
 23 use any feasible method in taking one or more of the following actions:

24 (a) The live wild buffalo or wild bison may be physically removed by the safest and most expeditious  
 25 means from within the state boundaries, including but not limited to hazing and aversion tactics or capture,  
 26 transportation, quarantine, or delivery to a department-approved slaughterhouse.

27 (b) The live wild buffalo or wild bison may be destroyed by the use of firearms. If a firearm cannot be  
 28 used for reasons of public safety or regard for public or private property, the animal may be relocated to a place  
 29 that is free from public or private hazards and destroyed by firearms or by a humane means of euthanasia.

30 (c) The live wild buffalo or wild bison may be taken through limited public hunts pursuant to 87-2-730

1 when authorized by the state veterinarian and the department.

2 (d) The live wild buffalo or wild bison may be captured, tested, quarantined, and vaccinated. Wild buffalo  
3 or wild bison that are certified by the state veterinarian as brucellosis-free may be:

4 (i) sold to help defray the costs that the department incurs in building, maintaining, and operating  
5 necessary facilities related to the capture, testing, quarantine, or vaccination of the wild buffalo or wild bison; or

6 (ii) transferred to qualified tribal entities that participate in the disease control program provided for in this  
7 subsection (1)(d). Acquisition of wild buffalo or wild bison by a qualified tribal entity must be done in a manner  
8 that does not jeopardize compliance with a state-administered or federally administered livestock disease control  
9 program. The department may adopt rules consistent with this section governing tribal participation in the program  
10 or enter into cooperative agreements with tribal organizations for the purposes of carrying out the disease control  
11 program.

12 (e) Proceeds from the sale of live, brucellosis-free, vaccinated wild buffalo or wild bison must be  
13 deposited in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

14 (f) Any revenue generated in excess of the costs referred to in subsection (1)(d)(i) must be deposited  
15 in the state special revenue fund provided for in 87-1-513(2).

16 (2) Whenever the department is responsible for the death of a wild buffalo or wild bison, either  
17 purposefully or unintentionally, the carcass of the animal must be disposed of by the most economical means,  
18 including but not limited to burying, incineration, rendering, or field dressing for donation or delivery to a  
19 department-approved slaughterhouse or slaughter destination.

20 (3) In disposing of the carcass, the department:

21 (a) as first priority, may donate a wild buffalo or wild bison carcass to a charity or to an Indian tribal  
22 organization; or

23 (b) may sell a wild buffalo or wild bison carcass to help defray expenses of the department. If the carcass  
24 is sold in this manner, the department shall deposit any revenue derived from the sale of the wild buffalo or wild  
25 bison carcass to the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

26 (4) The department may adopt rules with regard to management of publicly owned wild buffalo or wild  
27 bison that enter Montana on private or public land and that are from a herd that is infected with a contagious  
28 disease that may spread to persons or livestock and may jeopardize compliance with other state-administered  
29 or federally administered livestock disease control programs."

30

1           **Section 4.** Section 81-2-121, MCA, is amended to read:

2           **"81-2-121. Taking of publicly owned wild buffalo or wild bison that are present on private property**  
3 **-- notice -- supplemental feeding -- penalty.** (1) This chapter may not be construed to impose, by implication  
4 or otherwise, criminal liability on a landowner or the agent of a landowner for the taking of a publicly owned wild  
5 buffalo or wild bison that is suspected of carrying disease and that is present on the landowner's private property  
6 and is potentially associating with or otherwise threatening the landowner's livestock if:

7           (a) the landowner or agent notifies or makes a good faith effort to notify the department in order to allow  
8 as much time as practicable for the department to first take or remove the publicly owned wild buffalo or wild  
9 bison that is present on the landowner's property;

10           (b) the landowner or agent makes a good faith effort to notify the department that a taking has occurred  
11 and to retain all parts for disposal by the department; and

12           (c) the landowner or agent is not in violation of subsection (2).

13           (2) A person may not intentionally provide supplemental feed to game animals in a manner that results  
14 in artificial concentration of game animals that may potentially contribute to the transmission of disease. A person  
15 who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to the penalty provided in 87-1-102(1). This  
16 subsection does not apply to supplemental feeding activities conducted by the department for disease control  
17 purposes."  
18

19           **Section 5.** Section 81-3-201, MCA, is amended to read:

20           **"81-3-201. Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions  
21 apply:

22           (1) "Deputy state stock inspector" means a person designated by the department as a deputy state stock  
23 inspector who does not receive a salary or compensation from the department.

24           (2) "Feedlot" means a confined livestock feeding operation where the owner or operator of the feedlot  
25 feeds livestock belonging to others for a fee.

26           (3) "Livestock" means a bovine animal, domestic bison, horse, mule, or ass, regardless of its age or sex.

27           (4) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, firm, or entity not enumerated  
28 that is capable of owning or controlling livestock.

29           (5) "Specially qualified deputy stock inspector" means a deputy state stock inspector who has been  
30 certified by the department, under rules adopted pursuant to 81-3-202, as qualified to conduct an inspection for

1 a permanent transportation permit for a saddle, work, or show horse.

2 (6) "State stock inspector" means an employee of the department of livestock designated by the  
3 department as a state stock inspector."

4

5 **Section 6.** Section 81-4-603, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"81-4-603. Taking up and disposition of estrays -- advertisement.** (1) A stock inspector authorized  
7 by the department shall take into possession an estray found in the stock inspector's district and, except as  
8 provided in 81-2-120, shall either:

9 (a) ship or arrange for the shipment of the estray to a licensed livestock market for sale; or

10 (b) hold the estray and care for the estray in the cheapest and most practicable manner for at least 10  
11 days and not more than 30 days after public notice is published as provided in subsection (2). During the holding  
12 period, the stock inspector shall advertise that the estray is being held and that unless the estray is claimed by  
13 the owner, the stock inspector will on a date specified in the notice sell the estray at a public auction to the highest  
14 bidder for cash.

15 (2) The notice must be published in the newspaper doing the county printing of the county in which the  
16 estray is found and on the department's website and in each livestock market brand office and county sheriff's  
17 office in the state. This notice must be published in the newspaper at least one time and must contain a statement  
18 of the date of the sale, the place where the sale is to be held, and a general description of the estray, including  
19 the sex and the approximate age, together with an illustration of the brand and the position of the brand on the  
20 estray and a description of the place or locality where the estray was found or taken.

21 (3) ~~The~~ Except as provided in 81-2-120, the proceeds from the sale must be disposed of under 81-4-605  
22 and 81-4-606.

23 (4) The owner of the estray may appear and claim it at any time before the sale or shipment, as provided  
24 in this part, upon payment to the department of the cost of caring for the estray as determined by the department."

25

26 **Section 7.** Section 81-5-101, MCA, is amended to read:

27 **"81-5-101. Moving livestock from customary range forbidden.** (1) A person who willfully moves or  
28 causes to be moved any cattle, horses, mules, swine, llamas, alpacas, domestic bison, or sheep from their  
29 owner's customary range without the permission of the owner shall upon conviction be punished by imprisonment  
30 in the county jail not exceeding 6 months or by a fine not exceeding \$500, or both.

1 (2) A person who negligently moves or causes to be moved any cattle, horses, mules, swine, llamas,  
2 alpacas, domestic bison, or sheep from their owner's customary range without the permission of the owner shall  
3 upon conviction be punished by:

4 (a) a term of imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 6 months;

5 (b) a fine not exceeding:

6 (i) \$25 for a first offense;

7 (ii) \$250 for a second offense; and

8 (iii) \$500 for a third or subsequent offense; or

9 (c) both imprisonment and the appropriate fine.

10 (3) Prior to the imposition of the penalty provided for in subsection (1) or (2), the owner of the livestock  
11 shall file a complaint with the department. The department shall conduct an investigation to determine the  
12 circumstances under which the livestock were moved."  
13

14 **Section 8.** Section 81-5-104, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"81-5-104. Stolen livestock -- seizure and forfeiture of vehicle and certain other property used in**  
16 **theft or transportation.** (1) The use of a vehicle, money, equipment, or personalty for the theft or transportation  
17 of a stolen mule, horse, mare, colt, foal, filly, sheep, lamb, cow, calf, heifer, steer, bull, llama, alpaca, domestic  
18 bison, hogs, poultry, ostrich, rhea, emu, or the products of stolen livestock is unlawful. Any vehicle, money,  
19 equipment, or personalty used for the theft or unlawful transportation or upon probable cause believed to be  
20 devoted wholly or in part to the theft or unlawful transportation must be seized and held.

21 (2) Within 45 days after the seizure, a peace officer or officer of the agency that seizes the property shall  
22 file a petition to institute forfeiture proceedings with the clerk of the district court of the county in which the seizure  
23 occurs. The clerk shall issue a summons at the request of the petitioning party, who shall serve the summons  
24 upon all owners or claimants of the property by one of the following methods:

25 (a) upon an owner or claimant whose address is known, by personal service of a copy of the petition and  
26 summons as provided in the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure;

27 (b) upon an owner or claimant whose address is unknown but who is believed to have an interest in the  
28 property, by publication of the summons in one issue of a newspaper of general circulation in the county where  
29 the seizure occurred or, if there is no newspaper of general county circulation, by publication in one issue of a  
30 newspaper of general circulation in an adjoining county and by mailing a copy of the petition and summons to

1 the most recent address of the owner or claimant, if any, shown in the records of the division of motor vehicles.

2 (3) A vehicle is not subject to forfeiture under this section if:

3 (a) it is a stolen vehicle at the time it is used for unlawful transportation; or

4 (b) the vehicle owner is not in collusion with the party or parties guilty of the theft."

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6 **NEW SECTION. Section 9. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
7 integral part of Title 81, chapter 5, part 1, and the provisions of Title 81, chapter 5, part 1, apply to [section 1].

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9 **NEW SECTION. Section 10. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

10 - END -