

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS
5 TO AUTHORIZE DAMAGE HUNTS DUE TO A THREAT OF DISEASE TO LIVESTOCK; AND AMENDING
6 SECTION 87-1-225, MCA."

7
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9
10 **Section 1.** Section 87-1-225, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"87-1-225. Regulation of wild animals damaging property -- ~~public~~ hunting requirements.** (1)

12 Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), a landowner is eligible for game damage assistance under subsection
13 (3) if the landowner:

14 (a) allows ~~public~~ hunting during established hunting seasons; or

15 (b) does not significantly reduce ~~public~~ hunting through imposed restrictions.

16 (2) The department may provide game damage assistance when ~~public~~ hunting on a landowner's
17 property has been denied because of unique or special circumstances that have rendered ~~public~~ hunting
18 inappropriate.

19 (3) Within 48 hours after receiving a request or complaint from any landholder or person in possession
20 and having charge of any land in the state that wild animals of the state, protected by the fish and game laws and
21 regulations, are doing damage to the property or crops or are threatening livestock on the property, the
22 department shall investigate and arrange to study the situation with respect to damage, ~~and~~ depredation, and
23 threat of disease. The department may then decide to open a special season on the game, ~~or~~; if the special
24 season method is not feasible, the department may destroy the animals causing the damage. The department
25 may authorize and grant the holders of the property permission to kill or destroy a specified number of the animals
26 causing the damage or to kill wild animals that are known to be suffering from or exposed to a dangerous,
27 infectious, contagious, or communicable disease. A wild, ferocious animal damaging property or endangering life
28 is not covered by this section."

29 - END -