_____ BILL NO. _____

INTRODUCED BY _____

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT FOR HIDE CERTIFICATE IDENTIFICATION TAGS; REMOVING A PENALTY; COMBINING STATUTES RELATED TO HIDE CERTIFICATES; AMENDING SECTION 81-9-402, MCA; AND REPEALING SECTION 81-9-421, MCA."

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

Section 1. Section 81-9-402, MCA, is amended to read:

"**81-9-402. Hide certificate ~~-- identification~~ -- falsifying deemed misdemeanor.** (1) A seller of an animal hide shall obtain a hide certificate from the person receiving the hide. The department shall prescribe the form of the certificate, which must include the marks and brands on each hide. The party receiving the hide shall designate where it will be kept for 30 days following delivery. The certificate must be signed by the seller or the seller's agent and the person receiving the hide.

(2) The original certificate must be sent by the party receiving the hide to the department within 5 days after purchase. One copy must be retained by the seller, and one must be retained by the hide buyer. On reasonable notice, an inspector or other agent of the department or a peace officer may inspect the hide certificate copy of the seller or buyer.

~~(3) The department shall prescribe an identification tag to be affixed to each hide by the person receiving the hide when it is delivered. Hide certificates, tags, and glue must be furnished by the department at cost to any person requiring the certificates, tags, and glue. Only those certificates, tags, and glue distributed by the department may lawfully be used under this part.~~

(3) Any person, firm, association, or corporation who sells, disposes of, or purchases hides in any manner and who willfully or intentionally falsifies a hide certificate is guilty of a misdemeanor."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Repealer.** The following section of the Montana Code Annotated is

repealed:

81-9-421. Falsifying hide certificate or failure to affix tag deemed a misdemeanor.

- END -