

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 564

2 INTRODUCED BY M. MARLER

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING HUNTERS TO REPORT HUNTING ACTIVITY FOR
5 DEER AND ELK TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS; PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR
6 REPORTING AND PENALTIES FOR NONREPORTING; ESTABLISHING DEADLINES; REQUIRING THE
7 DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO COLLECT REPORTING INFORMATION; PROVIDING
8 RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; DEFINING "HUNTING ACTIVITY"; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE
9 DATE."

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

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13 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Mandatory reporting of deer and elk hunting activity -- bonus point -**
14 **- administrative fee -- rulemaking.** (1) A person who holds a hunting license for deer or elk shall report to the
15 department their hunting activity for each animal during the license year.

16 (2) A person who completes reporting of their hunting activity by February 15 of the license year in
17 which the person purchased a deer or elk license may choose to receive one bonus point for either a deer or
18 elk upon completion and submission of the report.

19 (3) A person who does not complete reporting of their hunting activity prior to the end of the
20 license year in which the person purchased a deer or elk license will be assessed an administrative fee of no
21 less than \$5 and no more than \$50, subject to determination by the department. The fee must be paid prior to
22 the purchase of or upon purchasing a base hunting license for the coming license year. A hunter may not be
23 required to pay more than one administrative fee for all reporting violations during a license year.

24 (4) The validation of an electronic tag pursuant to 87-2-119 does not satisfy the reporting
25 requirements of this section.

26 (5) The department shall develop a system for collecting and retaining mandatory hunting activity
27 reports. The department shall provide physical reporting forms, if applicable for carrying out the provisions of
28 this section.

1 (6) The department may make rules to implement this section.

(7) As used in this section, "hunting activity" includes harvest success, hunting district locations, dates during which hunting occurred, and any other pertinent hunting information as determined by the department.

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6 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an

7 integral part of Title 87, chapter 2, part 1, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 1, apply to [section 1].

9 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective March 1, 2026.

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