



Montana Legislative Services Division

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September 23, 2025

Anita Milanovich, General Counsel
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59601

RE: Re-enrollment and Passage and Approval of the Legally Correct Version of House Bill 259 (Ch. 432, L. 2025) Lawfully Passed by the 69th Legislature

Dear Ms. Milanovich,

The purpose of this letter is to provide a record for the Governor's Office as well as for the Secretary of State files on Chapter 432, Laws of Montana 2025, regarding the re-enrollment and passage and approval of the legally correct version of House Bill 259 that was lawfully passed by the 69th Legislature during the 2025 Session.

My statutory duties as the Code Commissioner for the State of Montana require that the Session Laws of Montana and the Montana Code Annotated accurately reflect the true and correct version of the laws duly and lawfully enacted by the Montana Legislature.

It was brought to my attention this summer that the enrolled version of House Bill 259 (Ch. 432, L. 2025) that was signed by the Governor and sent to the Secretary of States Office for processing and assignment of Chapter Number 432 was incorrect.

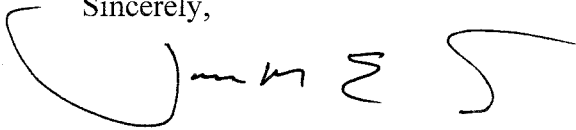
Specifically, during the 2025 Legislative Session, a Senate committee report stated that the bill had been amended by a House amendment that had previously failed in a House committee. The mistake was caught in time and both the Senate Committee of the Whole and the House Committee of the Whole voted on the correct version of the bill, which accurately reflected the Senate committee amendments. Unfortunately, when the bill was engrossed, the system generated the earlier incorrect version that reflected the failed House amendment. Unfortunately, this incorrect version was transmitted to the Governor and signed by him on May 5, 2025.

The corrected version of the bill has now been signed by both Speaker of the House Ler and Senate President Regier and was delivered to my office on September 22, 2025. Enclosed please find the two identical corrected versions for the Governor's consideration.

If the enclosed bill becomes law after the Governor's consideration, when my office receives the correct version of Chapter 432 from the Secretary of State, the chapter will be re-codified and posted on the Legislative Branch Website. Our office is currently in the process of codifying the 2025 session laws and therefore no errata sheet to the Montana Codes Annotated is necessary.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that laws of Montana accurately reflect the true and correct version of the laws duly and lawfully enacted by the Montana Legislature. Please reach out to me should you have any questions or desire further clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd M. Everts". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd M. Everts
Code Commissioner

Encs.

cc: Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division
Christi Jacobsen, Montana Secretary of State

CHAPTER # 432

HOUSE BILL NO. 259

INTRODUCED BY P. FIELDER, L. SCHUBERT, M. VINTON, S. KLAKKEN, E. ALBUS, K. LOVE,
T. SHARP, E. BYRNE, C. SCHOMER, V. MOORE, C. COCHRAN, T. MILLETT, T. MANZELLA, J.
FULLER, S. GIST, C. HINKLE, M. REGIER, M. YAKAWICH, S. FITZPATRICK, C. GLIMM, B.
LER, J. SCHILLINGER, L. DEMING, G. HERTZ, M. NOLAND, J. HINKLE, B. PHALEN

AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF GRAY WOLVES; REQUIRING
THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO APPLY DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES FOR THE
MANAGEMENT OF GRAY WOLVES; ALLOWING THE USE OF THERMAL AND INFRARED
SCOPES FOR GRAY WOLF MANAGEMENT; AMENDING SECTION 87-1-901, MCA; AND
PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

STATE OF MONTANA

FILED

9/29/25

Secretary of State

By

Christi Jackson

This bill was received by the Governor this

23rd

day

of September, 2025.

By

Anita Milanovich

Approved September 29, 2025

[Signature]
Governor



AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF GRAY WOLVES; REQUIRING THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO APPLY DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF GRAY WOLVES; ALLOWING THE USE OF THERMAL AND INFRARED SCOPES FOR GRAY WOLF MANAGEMENT; AMENDING SECTION 87-1-901, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Section 1. Section 87-1-901, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-1-901. Gray wolf management -- rulemaking -- reporting. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), the commission shall establish by rule hunting and trapping seasons for wolves with the intent to reduce the wolf population in this state to a sustainable level, but not less than the number of wolves necessary to support at least 15 breeding pairs. Trapping seasons must allow for the use of snares by the holder of a trapping license.

(2) For game management purposes, the commission ~~may~~shall apply different management techniques depending on the conditions in each administrative region, with the most liberal harvest regulations applied in regions with the greatest number of wolves. In doing so, the commission ~~may~~may authorize:

- (a) the issuance of more than one Class E-1 or Class E-2 wolf hunting license to an applicant;
- (b) the trapping or snaring of more than one wolf by the holder of a trapping license;
- (c) the harvest of an unlimited number of wolves by the holder of a single wolf hunting or wolf trapping license;
- (d) during the wolf trapping season, the use of bait while hunting or trapping wolves as long as no trap or snare trap is set within 30 feet of exposed bait visible from above; and
- (e) the hunting of wolves on private lands outside of daylight hours with the use of artificial light, or

night vision scopes, infrared scopes, or thermal imagery scopes.

(3) The commission shall adopt rules to allow a landowner or the landowner's agent to take a wolf on the landowner's property at any time without the purchase of a Class E-1 or Class E-2 wolf license when the wolf is a potential threat to human safety, livestock, or dogs. The rules must:

(a) be consistent with the Montana gray wolf conservation and management plan and the adaptive management principles of the commission and the department for the Montana gray wolf population;

(b) require a landowner or the landowner's agent who takes a wolf pursuant to this subsection (3) to promptly report the taking to the department and to preserve the carcass of the wolf;

(c) establish a quota each year for the total number of wolves that may be taken pursuant to this subsection (3); and

(d) allow the commission to issue a moratorium on the taking of wolves pursuant to this subsection (3) before a quota is reached if the commission determines that circumstances require a limitation of the total number of wolves taken.

(4) Public land permittees who have experienced livestock depredation must obtain a special kill permit authorized in 87-5-131(3)(b) to take a wolf on public land without the purchase of a Class E-1 or Class E-2 license.

(5) The department shall report annually to the environmental quality council in accordance with 5-11-210 regarding the implementation of 87-5-131, 87-5-132, and this section."

Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 259, originated in the House.



Chief Clerk of the House



Speaker of the House

Signed this 3rd day
of Sep, 2025.



President of the Senate

Signed this 22nd day
of September, 2025.

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