

1 **** BILL NO. ****
2 INTRODUCED BY ****
3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****
4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING TRAPPER EDUCATION FOR RESIDENT
6 TRAPPERS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS;
7 CREATING A SEPARATE FURBEARER HUNTING LICENSE FOR THOSE WHO DON'T TRAP; AMENDING
8 SECTIONS 87-2-102, 87-2-105, AND 87-2-601, MCA; PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

9
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
11

12 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Trapper education required.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a
13 resident born after January 1, 1985, may not obtain a Class C trapper's license pursuant to 87-2-601 unless the
14 person completes a trapper education course established pursuant to this section.

15 (2) A resident born after January 1, 1985, is not required to complete a trapper education course if the
16 resident:

17 (a) is trapping for the purposes of livestock or property protection; or

18 (b) completes the advanced level of the youth trapper camp offered by the Montana trappers
19 association.

20 (3) The department shall provide a trapper education course that includes field instruction and
21 classroom or online instruction and incorporates the trapper education manual from the Montana trappers
22 association in the course resources. The course shall:

23 (a) include but is not limited to instruction in trapping ethics, best practices, equipment, regulations, and
24 avoidance of nontarget species; and

25 (b) meet the requirements of rule or law for certification to trap wolves.

26 (4) To successfully complete a trapper education course, a person must pass a final exam. Upon
27 successful completion, the department shall issue that person a certificate of completion.

28 (5) To be certified to teach a trapper education course established pursuant to this section, an

1 instructor shall:

2 (a) pass a background check conducted by the department; and

3 (b) be deemed competent by the department to give instruction in ethical and humane trapping
4 methods.

5

6 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Class C-4 -- resident license to hunt bobcat, wolverine, and Canada**

7 **lynx.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a resident, as defined in 87-2-102, who is 12 years of age or
8 older, upon making application and payment of a fee of \$20 to the department, may receive a Class C-4 license
9 that authorizes the holder to hunt bobcat, wolverine, and Canada lynx within the state at the times and in the
10 manner provided by law and the regulations of the commission and at the places that may be designated in the
11 license.

12

13 **Section 3.** Section 87-2-102, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"87-2-102. Resident defined.** In determining whether a person is a resident for the purpose of issuing
15 resident hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, the following provisions apply:

16 (1) (a) A member of the regular armed forces of the United States, a member's spouse or dependent,
17 as defined in 15-30-2115, who resides in the member's household, or a member of the armed forces of a
18 foreign government attached to the regular armed forces of the United States is considered a resident for the
19 purposes of this chapter if:

20 (i) the member was a resident of Montana under the provisions of subsection (4) and continues to
21 meet the residency criteria of subsections (4)(b) through (4)(e); or

22 (ii) the member is currently stationed in and assigned to active duty in Montana, has resided in
23 Montana for at least 30 days, and presents official assignment orders and proof of completion of a hunter safety
24 and education course approved by the department as provided in 87-2-105, ~~or~~ a certificate verifying the
25 successful completion of a hunter safety course in any state or province, or, if applicable, proof of completion of
26 a trapper education course pursuant to [section 1]. The 30-day residence requirement is waived in time of war.
27 Reassignment to another state, United States territory, or country terminates Montana residency for purposes
28 of this section, except that a reassigned member continues to qualify as a resident if the member's spouse and

1 dependents continue to physically reside in Montana and the member continues to meet the residency criteria
2 of subsections (4)(b) through (4)(e). The designation of Montana by a member of the regular armed forces as a
3 "home of record" or "home of residence" in that member's armed forces records does not determine the
4 member's residency for purposes of this section.

5 (b) A member of the regular armed forces of the United States who is otherwise considered a
6 Montana resident pursuant to subsection (1)(a)(i) does not forfeit that status as a resident because the
7 member, by virtue of that membership, also possesses, has applied for, or has received resident hunting,
8 fishing, or trapping privileges in another state or country.

9 (2) A person who has physically resided in Montana as the person's principal or primary home or
10 place of abode for 180 consecutive days and who meets the criteria of subsection (4) immediately before
11 making application for any license is eligible to receive resident hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. As used
12 in this section, a vacant lot or a premises used solely for business purposes is not considered a principal or
13 primary home or place of abode.

14 (3) A person who obtains residency under subsection (2) may continue to be a resident for purposes
15 of this section by physically residing in Montana as the person's principal or primary home or place of abode for
16 not less than 120 days a year and by meeting the criteria of subsection (4) prior to making application for any
17 resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license.

18 (4) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2) or (3), a person shall meet the following criteria to
19 be considered a resident for purposes of this section:

20 (a) the person's principal or primary home or place of abode is in Montana;

21 (b) the person files Montana state income tax returns as a resident if required to file;

22 (c) the person licenses and titles in Montana as required by law any vehicles that the person owns
23 and operates in Montana;

24 (d) except as provided in subsection (1)(b), the person does not possess or apply for any resident
25 hunting, fishing, or trapping licenses from another state or country or exercise resident hunting, fishing, or
26 trapping privileges in another state or country; and

27 (e) if the person registers to vote, the person registers only in Montana.

28 (5) A student who is enrolled full-time in a postsecondary educational institution out of state and who

1 would qualify for Montana resident tuition or who otherwise meets the residence requirements of subsection (2)
2 or (3) is considered a resident for purposes of this section.

3 (6) An enrollee of a job corps camp located within the state of Montana is, after a period of 30 days
4 within Montana, considered a resident for the purpose of making application for a fishing license as long as the
5 person remains an enrollee in a Montana camp.

6 (7) A person who does not reside in Montana but who meets all of the following requirements is a
7 resident for purposes of obtaining hunting and fishing licenses:

8 (a) The person's principal employment is within this state and the income from this employment is the
9 principal source of the applicant's family income.

10 (b) The person is required to pay and has paid Montana income tax in a timely manner and proper
11 amount.

12 (c) The person has been employed within this state on a full-time basis for at least 12 consecutive
13 months immediately preceding each application.

14 (d) The person's state of residency has laws substantially similar to this subsection (7).

15 (8) An unmarried minor is considered a resident for the purposes of this section if the minor's parents,
16 legal guardian, or parent with joint custody, sole custody, or visitation rights is a resident for purposes of this
17 section. The minor is considered a resident for purposes of this section regardless of whether the minor resides
18 primarily in the state or otherwise qualifies as a resident. The resident parent or guardian of the minor may be
19 required to show proof of the parental, guardianship, or custodial relationship to the minor.

20 (9) A person is not considered a resident for the purposes of this section if the person:

21 (a) claims residence in any other state or country for any purpose; or

22 (b) is an absentee property owner paying property tax on property in Montana.

23 (10) A license agent is not considered a representative of the state for the purpose of determining a
24 license applicant's residence status."

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26 **Section 4.** Section 87-2-105, MCA, is amended to read:

27 **"87-2-105. ~~Safety instruction~~ Hunter safety and education required.** (1) Except for a youth who
28 qualifies for a license pursuant to 87-2-805(4) or a person who has been issued an apprentice hunting

1 certificate pursuant to 87-2-810, a hunting license may not be issued to a person born after January 1, 1985,
2 unless the person authorized to issue the license determines proof of completion of:

- 3 (a) a Montana hunter safety and education course established in subsection (4) or (6);
- 4 (b) a hunter safety course in any other state or province; or
- 5 (c) a Montana hunter safety and education course that qualifies the person for a provisional certificate
6 as provided in 87-2-126.

7 (2) A hunting license may not be issued to a member of the regular armed forces of the United States
8 or to a member of the armed forces of a foreign government attached to the armed forces of the United States
9 who is assigned to active duty in Montana and who is otherwise considered a resident under 87-2-102(1) or to
10 a member's spouse or dependent, as defined in 15-30-2115, who resides in the member's household, unless
11 the person authorized to issue the license determines proof of completion of a hunter safety and education
12 course approved by the department or a hunter safety course in any state or province.

13 (3) A bow and arrow license may not be issued to a resident or nonresident unless the person
14 authorized to issue the license receives an archery license issued for a prior hunting season or determines
15 proof of completion of a bowhunter education course from the national bowhunter education foundation or any
16 other bowhunter education program approved by the department. Neither the department nor the license agent
17 is required to provide records of past archery license purchases. As part of the department's bow and arrow
18 licensing procedures, the department shall notify the public regarding bowhunter education requirements.

19 (4) The department shall provide for a hunter safety and education course that includes instruction in
20 the safe handling of firearms and for that purpose may cooperate with any reputable organization having as one
21 of its objectives the promotion of hunter safety and education. The department may designate as an instructor
22 any person it finds to be competent to give instructions in hunter safety and education, including the handling of
23 firearms. A person appointed shall give the course of instruction and shall issue a certificate of completion from
24 Montana's hunter safety and education course to a person successfully completing the course.

25 (5) The department shall provide for a course of instruction from the national bowhunter education
26 foundation or any other bowhunter education program approved by the department and for that purpose may
27 cooperate with any reputable organization having as one of its objectives the promotion of safety in the
28 handling of bow hunting tackle. The department may designate as an instructor any person it finds to be

1 competent to give bowhunter education instruction. A person appointed shall give the course of instruction and
2 shall issue a certificate of completion to a person successfully completing the course.

3 (6) The department may develop an adult hunter safety and education course.

4 (7) The department may adopt rules regarding how a person authorized to issue a license determines
5 proof of completion of a required course."

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7 **Section 5.** Section 87-2-601, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"87-2-601. Class C--trapper's license.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a resident, as
9 defined in 87-2-102, who is 12 years of age or older, upon making application and payment of a fee of \$20 to
10 the department, may receive a Class C license that authorizes the holder to trap fur-bearing animals ~~and hunt~~
11 ~~bobcat, wolverine, and Canada lynx~~ within the state at the times and in the manner provided by law and the
12 regulations of the commission and at the places that may be designated in the license. This license includes the
13 Class C-4 license to hunt bobcat, wolverine, and Canada lynx established in [section 2]."

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15 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction. (1) [Section 1] is intended to be codified as
16 an integral part of Title 87, chapter 2, part 1, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 1, apply to [section
17 1].

18 (2) [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 87, chapter 2, part 6, and the
19 provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 6, apply to [section 2].

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21 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Effective date. [This act] is effective March 1, 2022.

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