

Bounty Claims—Funds—Fish and Game.

The \$7500 directed by section 14, chapter 192, laws of 1925, to be transferred from the fishing and hunting license fees to the bounty fund "on or before January 1st" of each year need not be held for the payment of bounty claims accruing after its transfer but at once becomes available for the payment of any existing legal bounty claims.

C. A. Jakways, Esq.,
State Game Warden,
Helena, Montana.

April 16, 1925.

My dear Mr. Jakways:

You have submitted for an opinion the question whether the \$7500 provided by section 14 of chapter 192, laws of the nineteenth legislative assembly, to be transferred from the fish and game license fees to the bounty fund of the state, can be used in the payment of bounty claims accruing from the first of April, 1925, to the first of July, 1925, or whether it would have to be held for the payment of bounties accruing in 1926.

Section 10 of chapter 109, laws of 1925, creates a fund to be known as the "Bounty Fund" derived from a tax levy on livestock and provides that the moneys received shall be placed to the credit of the bounty fund and such moneys shall thereafter be paid out on claims approved as aforesaid duly and regularly presented to the state board of examiners in accordance with the law governing the payment of claims allowed by said board.

Section 7 of the above act provides for the approval of claims by the state board of examiners and directs the state auditor to issue his warrant on the state bounty fund for the amount thereof in favor of the claimant in the order in which the same is approved.

Section 14 of chapter 192, laws of 1925, provides that the sum of \$7500 shall be transferred from the fishing and hunting license fees on or before January 1st of each year to the bounty fund of the state to be used to pay bounty on predatory animals, as provided by law.

It is my opinion, therefore, that the \$7500 which you are directed to transfer to the bounty fund "on or before January 1st" of next year need not be held for the payment of bounties allowed during the year 1926, but that it at once becomes available for the payment of any then existing legal bounty claims or warrants issued in payment thereof.

Very truly yours,

L. A. FOOT,
Attorney General.