

MINUTES
FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 8, 1979

The nineteenth meeting of the Fish and Game Committee was called to order by Chairman Smith at 1:00 P.M., in Room 402 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 29,
"A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA DIRECTING THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION TO ADOPT A RULE LIMITING THE SIZE OF HOLE AN ICE FISHERMAN MAY CUT IN THE ICE."

Chief Sponsor Jean Turnage explained the bill. He said its intent is to provide a degree of safety for people walking on ice.

Mr. Frank Stock of Polosn, representing Polson Outdoors, Incorporated, spoke in favor of the bill. He said his group wants the size of ice fishing holes limited as a safety measure. Mr. Stock continued, saying that sometimes people cut large holes in the ice with chain saws to fish - the ice freezes in a thin sheet and then if it snows, it covers the hole and people may fall through it.

Mr. Lionel Bielby of Polson Outdoors, Incorporated, spoke in favor of the bill as a safety measure.

Mr. Harold Gregg, also representing Polson Outdoors, Incorporated, testified in favor of the bill. He said he had a friend who fell through the ice and it was his feeling it would be ridiculous to allow an ice hole any larger than 144 square inches, which this bill states.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any other proponents; there were none. There being no opponents to the bill, he called for questions from the Committee.

Chairman Smith asked Dr. Robert Wambach, Director of the Montana Department of Fish and Game, why they have set regulations for some lakes but not for others. Dr. Wambach said the Department does it in response to the requests of sportsmen.

Dr. Wambach said spear fishermen prefer larger ice holes. Chairman Smith asked if they put up "caution" signs after cutting these larger holes. Dr. Wambach said to his knowledge they did not. Senator Van Valkenburg questioned why, when the Committee is being so specific in the bill, it is not drafting this aspect into it. Senator Turnage said if the Committee wanted to include anything in the bill that would provide additional safety, he would favor it.

Senator Van Valkenburg asked Mr. Robert Bird, Bureau Chief of Safety and Training, Law Enforcement Division, Department of Fish and Game, if there should be more flexibility concerning the size of an ice hole. Mr. Bird replied he felt 144 square inches in quite sufficient.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Senator Van Valkenburg proposed amending the bill to limit the size of an ice hole not to exceed 144 square inches.

Debbie Schmidt, Legislative Council Researcher, said this type of resolution directing an agency to adopt a rule has the force of a bill as far as regulation is concerned. Senator Van Valkenburg asked if a time limit could be included in the bill, stating the Department would have only a certain amount of time to adopt a regulation. It was decided that it would be possible if the Committee wished to do so.

There being no further questions, Chairman Smith closed the hearing on SJR 29.

CONSIDERATION OF HB 623, A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A TRAPPER EDUCATION PROGRAM: TO REQUIRE EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION OF SUCH COURSE, A COMPARABLE COURSE, OR PRIOR POSSESSION OF A VALID TRAPPER'S LICENSE BEFORE ISSUANCE OF A CLASS C TRAPPER'S LICENSE."

Representative Paul Kropp, Chief Sponsor, explained the bill. He introduced Mrs. Janet Moore of Condon, lobbyist for the Montana Trappers Association, introduced her husband, William Moore, who testified in support of the bill. Mr. Moore said he supported the bill because it would aid trappers in creating and maintaining the high standards required if the trapping profession and trappers are to survive and be available to help manage wildlife, control predators, and contribute to the economic welfare of Montana. He felt the Committee should amend the bill, to show the fall of 1980 for full implementation. (Attachment #1)

Mrs. Moore advised the Committee she had written testimony, dated February 21, 1979, from the Montana Trappers Association, in support of the bill. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Robert Bird, Bureau Chief of Safety and Training, Law Enforcement Division, Department of Fish and Game, testified in support of the bill. He said in recent years, the rise in value of long fur has caused a tremendous increase in trapping interest. Many of these new trappers have little or no prior experience and very limited opportunities to gain proper knowledge and experience. He felt this bill, properly implemented, should provide knowledge that literally would accumulate over a lifetime of trapping. (Attachment #3)

Representative Howard Ellis thought the bill was misinterpreted on the House Floor. He said it creates humane trapping and it could improve the trapping industry immensely.

Mrs. Moore said a training program had been conducted at Roundup, and it was very successful and well received.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any further proponents. There being none, he called for opponents to speak.

Mr. Ed Tyanich, representing himself, said he was opposed to the bill. He said the amount of information available to the local trapper is staggering and that many, many books are on the market and are not expensive.

Mr. Keith Gregerson, representing himself, said he was opposed to the bill. He said interested people could attend the trappers' meetings held twice a year and they could be trained, rather than burdening the Fish and Game Department and costing more money.

A letter was sent around the Committee membership from Mr. John B. Harris of East Helena, Montana, in opposition to the bill. Mr. Harris wrote he felt that young people who are motivated to trap should pay their own expenses for learning, both in money out of their pockets and in the hard school of nature, where there is absolutely no substitute for good old hard work and that knowledge which comes about from experience. (Attachment #4)

Mr. Wayne Stewart, representing himself, spoke in opposition to the bill.

There being no further proponents or opponents, Chairman Smith called on Representative Kropp to close. He said the hunter safety program has worked very well, and he thought this would work well also. It is his feeling that the bill will improve the trapper-landowner relations.

Chairman Smith closed the hearing and called for questions from the Committee.

Senator Anderson said he felt this bill requires a letter of intent and a fiscal note. Representative Kropp said there is a fiscal note for the bill, but no statement of intent.

Senator Goodover asked who sets up the education program and how the Department determined who qualifies for it. Dr. Wambach said it would be operated in a fashion similar to the hunter safety program, using voluntary instructors. He said the Department would utilize suggestions of trappers for setting guidelines for the program.

Senator Goodover asked if the Boy Scout Organizations, etc., would qualify as instructors. Mr. Bird replied he was not familiar with the Boy Scout program training youngsters to trap. He said all of the instructors would have to be certified with the Department. Senator Manley asked what the requirements would be for certification. Mr. Bird said it would follow the hunter safety requirements. The instructors would attend a course, attend workshops, and then be required to pass a test.

Chairman Smith said he at one time was a hunter safety instructor, and that he has been a trapper. He feels there is a great difference between teaching someone to hold a gun properly and setting traps. He said a lot of people do not give out their secret techniques about trapping. Mr. Willis Kent, Vice President of the Montana Trappers Association, said he feels most people who are knowledgeable would be happy to assist new trappers and teach them.

Senator Anderson said that, according to page 1, line 13, the only way to humanely trap animals would be with a steel trap.

Mr. Moore said he feels this bill will encourage people to have higher ethics in trapping. Mr. Tyanich said you will never find trappers in agreement about what is a humane way to trap.

Senator Galt asked what the qualifications are presently for obtaining a trapper's license. Mr. Moore replied you simply must be a resident of the State of Montana and pay the fee to qualify. He said about 3,500 trappers are licensed in the state right now.

Senator Manley felt the main purpose of trapping is to make a living. Mr. Tyanich said 50 percent of his

income is derived from trapping and that he felt an individual could not afford to spend money and time doing this as a hobby.

Chairman Smith asked Mr. Bird how long the program would take. Mr. Bird replied it would be approximately 10 to 12 hours. Chairman Smith said he used to trap, and asked if he would not have to take the test. Mr. Bird said the landowner's license would be exempt. He said there are two types of licenses - the "C," which is a general license, and the "C-1," which is the landowner license.

Senator Van Valkenburg was excused from the meeting at 1:45 P.M.

Mr. Barton brought out that in Washington it is a requirement to take 6 hours of training if you are a new trapper. Senator Galt asked if nonresident trappers would be required to be trained and tested. Mr. Bird replied there is no provision for nonresidents right now; however, there is a bill before the legislature asking that a fee be charged to allow them to trap. Debbie Schmidt said if a trapper is licensed in his home state and then met Montana's residency requirement, it would be legal for him to trap here.

Mr. Gregerson said he has worked all of his life learning to trap and felt it would be impossible to learn anything worthwhile in 6 hours.

Mrs. Moore said she feels we need uniformity in the trapping industry.

Chairman Smith asked if the Department felt there would be enough people willing to put in the time to educate other people. Mr. Bird replied that the State of Washington had 1,800 trappers when they began their program, and they now have trained 3,000.

Mr. Barton stated the bill is not intended to tell someone how to go out and make a living trapping, but is designed to teach what traps to use, etc.

Chairman Smith closed the hearing on SJR 29.

DISPOSITION OF SJR 29: Senator Manley made a motion that SJR 29 DO NOT PASS. Following a roll call vote, the motion failed 5-1, with Senator Goodover abstaining and Senators Smith, Galt, Anderson, Stimatz and Van Valkenburg voting "no."

Senator Anderson made a motion that SJR 29 DO PASS. After a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-1, with Senator Goodover abstaining and Senator Manley voting "no." SJR 29 went out of Committee with a DO PASS recommendation.

Chairman Smith announced the hearing for the day was completed and there would follow a meeting to discuss with Fish and Game Department personnel a proposed resolution to study license fees. He said he would like to go on record as supporting a resolution to examine this and draft a resolution.

Dr. Wambach remained for the Executive Session.

Senator Goodover asked who would be hired to conduct the study. Debbie Schmidt replied it would be a joint committee of senators and representatives, and that there could be an interim study voted on by the legislature.

Senator Stimatz said he thought the Department is not nearly as "black" as it is painted, but it does have a bad reputation. He felt the study would vent some of the hostility toward the Department.

Chairman Smith said he felt this study, along with conducting public hearings, would garner worthwhile input from the public. Senator Van Valkenburg didn't feel it would solve much, but he said it couldn't hurt anything either. He continued, saying he felt we may be relying too heavily on nonresident fees. Dr. Wambach said the U. S. Supreme Court considered the \$225 nonresident license and ruled favorably on it last October.

Debbie Schmidt said the Committee could write a resolution assigning it to the Review Oversight Committee. Senator Galt thought this resolution too important to be considered or handled by them, since they have so many other things to do and can't do justice to them all.

Chairman Smith asked the Committee if it felt the Review Oversight Committee should handle it or assign it to another committee. He also asked if the Committee wished to draft the resolution.

Senator Manley said he felt the Montana Fish and Game Department should be funded out of the general fund like every other agency, and this should be in the resolution.

Senator Galt asked if the Department could provide per diem for 6 or 7 committee members. Dr. Wambach said

he thought the Department would feel this important enough that it would find the money somehow. He said neighboring states are reviewing and revising their fee structures, and he would favor including the per diem fees in the resolution.

Senator Van Valkenburg thought the committee should consist only of legislators, since the whole study would be a waste of time without legislative support.. Debbie Schmidt said she would work with Senators Smith and Anderson to draft a resolution.

Senator Anderson asked why the Department felt it should fund the trappers' bill. Dr. Wambach said the Department has had trouble dealing with trappers. He continued, saying when they became organized, Department personnel sat in on all of their legislative meetings; the leadership was so committed to this legislation that the Department went along with it. He said the opposition to the bill has developed within the last two days as far as he can determine, since there was no opposition in the House.

Senator Anderson mentioned the game farm bill and the court case ruling against the Department.

Senator Galt was excused from the meeting at 2:25 P.M.

Dr. Wambach, in reference to the Bighorn court case, said after heated debate it came down to personal rights and that is why the Department did not appeal the case. He spoke of gamefarms where the owners take down fences and drive state-owned elk in, where they are earmarked as privately owned animals. Dr. Wambach said there is a problem with cross breeding animals and species from other countries and a definite problem in identifying whose animals are whose. In conclusion, he stated that, in talking with Montanans, most of them oppose private shooting preserves.

Senator Anderson asked if the Department could provide the Committee with a statement outlining the Department's philosophy on all of these different areas, so when questions arise, the Committee will have some point of reference.

Senator Manley was excused from the meeting at 2:35 P.M.

Dr. Wambach said he would provide the Committee with a statement outlining the Department's position on these many items.

He said, following the Bighorn law suit, the Department went through a rule-making process and held a few hearings, after which it concluded it did not have the authority to make decisions such as this. The Department also has no rules in regard to laws on exportation of antlers, meat, or hides from game farms. He mentioned that there are 132 game farms in the state; one person has made application for a game farm permit recently, and his holdings amount to 45,000 acres.

Chairman Smith said after the Department lost the court case, it should have come to the legislature with recommendations, recognizing that this is a new industry. Dr. Wambach said he agreed with this completely.

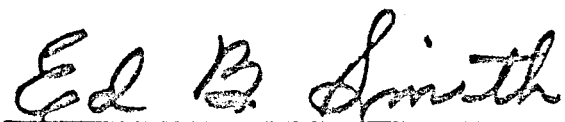
Chairman Smith mentioned the Committee minutes from March 1, wherein Mr. Putnam said the Conservation Licenses would be available for one year; however, they are not. He asked Dr. Wambach about this discrepancy.

Dr. Wambach said the Department didn't want to confuse the people by sending out another application form, but by March 16 a news release will be sent out stating that if you have not already purchased a Conservation License, they are available for a one-year period. He said 170,000 applications have already been received for the two-year license. According to Dr. Wambach, a statewide newspaper release will be made between the first of April and the first of May, stating that the Conservation Licenses will be available at license dealers on a 1-year basis, as well as the 2-year licenses obtained by mail.

Dr. Wambach stated Mr. Larry Putnam, Administrator of the Centralized Services Division, Department of Fish and Game, will provide the Committee with a summary of the Department's stand on licenses.

Senator Anderson said he hoped the Department would not limit its position statement to what was discussed today. Dr. Wambach said it will be all-inclusive. He asked Chairman Smith if he would like to have this information before the Committee takes executive action on HB 420, which he said he would.

ADJOURNMENT: Senator Van Valkenburg made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Senator Anderson. Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:00 P.M.


SENATOR ED B. SMITH, CHAIRMAN

Date 3-8-79

ROLL CALL

FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

46th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 1979

| NAME | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCUSED |
|------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| SMITH, Ed, Chairman | ✓ | | |
| | | | |
| GALT, Jack E., Vice Chairman | ✓ | | |
| | | | |
| ANDERSON, Mike | ✓ | | |
| | | | |
| GOODOVER, Pat M. | ✓ | | |
| | | | |
| MANLEY, John E. | ✓ | | |
| | | | |
| STIMATZ, Lawrence G. | ✓ | | |
| | | | |
| VAN VALKENBURG, Fred | ✓ | | |
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Each Day Attach to Minutes.

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Ed B. Smith
SENATOR ED B. SMITH, CHAIRMAN

FACTS ON THE NEW FISH AND GAME
LICENSE SYSTEM

1. Dr. Wambach has always insisted that the 1-year license be available. When he addressed the Fish and Game Committee he did not understand that the marketing and cost effectiveness would require special handling of the one-year license. In order to put the licensing system on an efficient cycling pattern it is necessary to handle the one-year conservation licenses in a special manner. They will be available at all regional offices plus the convenience of mail order.
2. The new computerized system is designed to:
 - (a) expedite license sales for the convenience of the public;
 - (b) provide adequate dealer accounting and increase profits to dealers;
 - (c) control illegal nonresident license sales;
 - (d) provide adequate base for hunting and fishing harvest questionnaires.
3. \$2.00 conservation licenses will be available from all license dealers; these will be temporary and a plastic card will be mailed to the holder in due course.
4. \$1.00 conservation licenses will be available at all Fish and Game regional headquarters and in the Helena office either in person or by the convenience of the mail.
5. \$1.00 conservation licenses will be available at all license agents the second year of each 2-year license period (system designed this way at present).
6. \$2.00 conservation license holders will be given a refund the second year if they decide not to hunt, fish, or trap; or if they die.
7. This new computerized license system is only cost effective if a high percentage of sportsmen participate with the 2-year license.
8. Printing and distributing \$1.00 licenses cannot be accomplished by May 1, the beginning of the new license year.
9. There will be an additional cost to the state of 7 to 10 thousand dollars to distribute the \$1.00 license to all dealers.
10. On-line computer programs would have to be reconstructed, causing problems in both time and money if there is a large volume of 1-year license sales. This will require \$15,000 in reprogramming costs.
11. SJR34 sponsored by the Senate Fish and Game Committee establishes an interim legislative committee to study all aspects of Fish and Game license sales and financing. This system can be given full study and consideration by that group.
12. Response has been overwhelmingly favorable on the 2-year plastic card. Applications for 153,000 2-year licenses have been received and are being processed for the new plastic 2-year license.
13. This new system has been developed over a 2-year period and over \$160,000 is invested in it.
14. This new system addresses the fee change proposed by HB551 by making license sales by dealers more efficient thus increasing their profit margin.

COMMITTEE

DATE _____

(check one)

[illegible]

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY

Attachment #

NAME: William R Moore DATE: 3/8/79

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1044 - CONDON, MT. 59826

PHONE: 754-2473

REPRESENTING WHOM? MONTANA TRAPPER'S ASSOCIATION

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB 623 TRAPPER EDUCATION

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? X OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: I support the bill because it will
help the trappers to better maintain
the high standards and ethics needed in
the trapping profession & trappers
are to survive & be available to help
manage wildlife, control predators and
contribute to the economic welfare of
Montana

William R. Moore

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

attachment
#2

NAME: JANET MEORE DATE: 3/8/79

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1044 - CONDON, MT. 59826

PHONE: 754-2473

REPRESENTING WHOM? lobbyist for Mont. TRAPPER'S ASSOC

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB623 - TRAPPER EDUCATION

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: See attached statement

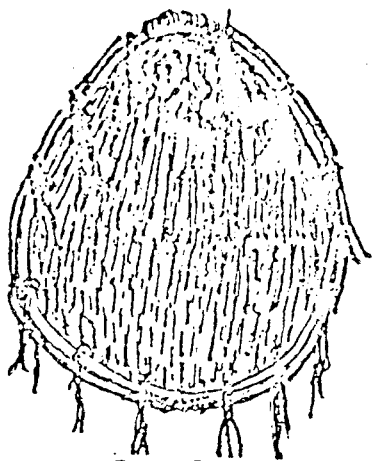
PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

MONTANA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

BOX 29

SEELEY LAKE, MT. 59868

Working today for a tomorrow in trapping
Furbearers are a RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCE



Dear Senator

February 21, 1979

The following is offered to help you consider HB 623, Act to establish a trapper education program."

Last year there were 3,664 licensed trappers in Montana and their numbers continue to grow. In addition an unknown number of unlicensed trappers take predatory and unclassified animals in the state. Trapping is a \$15-\$20 million a year industry in Montana. Irresponsible, haphazard harvesting of the fur resource is the greatest single threat to the survival of this age old profession.

New and inexperienced trappers join in growing numbers each year and some of those already licensed trappers are not aware of all humane trapping methods, the reasons for laws governing trapping, the need to improve land-owner and trapper relations, the habitat requirements of furbearers and the constraints needed to assure the perpetuation of a sustained supply of the fur resource.

The Trapper Education bill would address these foregoing problems and correct them by requiring each new licensee to pass an approved trapper training program as prerequisite to purchasing a license.

The bill, as written, deals only with those persons who purchase licenses to trap furbearers. Unlicensed predator trappers were not included because trappers, wildlife biologists and the Department of Livestock already conduct training in some places for predator trappers. Nonetheless, predator trappers and trappers of furbearers are often the same people so the benefits of the training authorized under HB 623 would be felt by nearly all trappers in the state.

This bill requires no special appropriations. Instructors would be certified by the Fish & Game Department and their time and services would be volunteered. We expect the administrative costs to the Fish & Game Department will be covered in the normal way through license fees or cooperative funds available to the department.

Though some department spokesmen feel they could implement this bill by the fall of 1979, the MTA recommends an implementation date of the 1980-81 license year. This would allow sufficient time to organize, certify instructors and conduct training.

Section 1, sub section 2, should be expanded so the training program would include training in:

- (e) furbearer habitat requirements
- (f) furbearer population dynamics

These additions would prepare the trainees to recognize the need for habitats and to involve themselves in habitat management in cooperation with land-owners and public agencies. They could also recognize and apply the constraints necessary to assure sustained yield of the fur resource.

The Montana Trappers Association began about 4 years ago in Libby, Montana. One year ago it had less than 100 members and was regional in nature. It is a statewide organization today with over 500 members and growing. Their organization includes 8 regions with boundaries similar to the Fish & Game regions. A Regional Director supervises activities in each region.


If enacted, this bill won't immediately cure all problems caused by irresponsible trappers. But its long range effects will be worthy. And it will help a great deal to prepare our youth, all new trappers and some of the old for a responsible, informed role in wildlife management, harvest and predator control throughout the state of Montana.

HB 623 will help correct misguided thinking like ... "the best way to get your trapper education is to go trapping."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Edd Nentwig', written in a cursive style.

Edd Nentwig, President
Montana Trappers Association



February 22, 1979

Dear Senator

The following points should be considered as you discuss HB 623, "An Act to establish a trapper education program."

- To teach trapping is not the intent of HB 623. Instead, this education program will teach proper use of trapping equipment.
- This education program will teach general trapping ethics, how to build good land-owner and trapper relations, how to properly handle the fur once it is harvested to prevent waste because thousands of dollars are wasted each year when trappers handle furs improperly,
- This education program will also teach furbearer habitat requirements and population dynamics provided HB 623, Section 1, Sub Section 2, is amended to add "habitat requirements and population dynamics."
- This education program will not prevent small children from trapping. State Law, Section 87-2-103 ... "It is unlawful for any person to; pursue, hunt, trap, take, shoot or kill or attempt to or kill any game animal, game bird, any furbearing animal within this state or have, keep, possess, sell, purchase, ship or reship any imported or other furbearing animals or parts thereof without first having obtained a proper license or permit"
- This education program will teach trapping on a sustained yield basis. In other words, leaving furbearer seed to insure a harvestable crop of the fur resource for tomorrow.
- Money to administer this bill is not a major factor since instructors will volunteer their time and services. Administrative costs will be covered in the normal way through license fees or cooperative funds. (Senate bill 342 will request a \$.250 nonresident predator trapper's license that could fund this trapper education program.)
- This education program will teach laws governing trapping.
- This education program to have uniformity and statewide influence cannot be conducted by the Montana Trappers Association. And unless the education is mandatory the "fast-buck trappers" will not attend the classes.

It is estimated that between \$3-\$5 million is wasted each year by improper handling of the fur resource by

DEPARTMENT OF

FISH AND GAME

February 17, 1979

HOUSE BILL 623

Statement by the Montana Department of Fish & Game

Mr. Chairman, committee members, my name is Bob Bird, Chief of the Bureau of Safety & Training for the Montana Department of Fish & Game, speaking in favor of the proposed bill.

In recent years, the rise in value of long fur has caused a tremendous increase in trapping interest. Many of these new trappers have little or no prior experience and very limited opportunities to gain proper knowledge and experience. This bill, properly implemented, should provide knowledge that literally would accumulate over a lifetime of trapping.

It is my belief that it is the careless or inexperienced trapper that causes much of the suffering that many people, unfortunately, believe is the rule, rather than the exception.

Currently, the states of Washington and Ohio have mandatory trapper education programs and New Jersey and Maryland are in the process of implementing programs. Washington had the first such mandatory program and highly recommends it. Unfortunately this bill does not cover predator and nongame wildlife trappers. However, predator trapping would be a significant part of the trapper education program, and I believe a good number of predator trappers would attend voluntarily.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Administration of the Montana Trapper Education Program

Instructors will be recruited from the ranks of the Montana Trappers Association and other interested individuals. Only applicants who are of good moral character will be accepted. (Applicants with criminal records, extensive fish and game or traffic records, alcoholics, etc., would not be acceptable.) Each applicant would require the recommendation of the district game warden and possibly a director of the MTA to be certified.

Much of the first year expenses would be utilized in reviewing available materials from industry and other states and provinces to develop the curriculum for classes. Instructor workshops would then be conducted around the state to demonstrate proper methods of instruction, suggested training aids and minimum course content. The department would furnish all training materials including but not limited to 16mm film, 35mm slides, student and instructor handbooks or manuals, printed handout materials, student registration cards and rosters, instructor records, cards, and patches or emblems.

We do not anticipate furnishing trapping devices, furs, fleshing tools, or travel expenses for instructors at this time. These items would be available from the trapper, fur dealers and local merchants. We may utilize some consultants on a limited basis for instructor training, in which case they may be paid and reimbursed for travel. Any nonreimbursable out of pocket expenses would be a tax deductible item for all instructors.

Washington enacted a mandatory trapper education program effective in 1976. They are very pleased with it and recommend it highly. It has been well accepted by the public as many attending are not trappers. In three years they trained more students than they have licensed trappers.

Ohio enacted a mandatory trapper education program last year. Ohio state trappers and the wildlife department are very enthusiastic and expect their program to be very successful.

The states of Colorado, Maryland and New Jersey are presently all considering mandatory trapper education programs.

In addition, most of the canadian provinces have excellent trapper education programs.

5

REQUEST NO 308-79

Figure B1D-1.4

FISCAL NOTE WORKSHEET

AUTHORITY: Chapter 53, Laws of Montana, 1965 – Thirty-Ninth Legislative Assembly

TO: Fish & Game

Agency or Unit

A Fiscal Note estimate and statement are requested for:

S.B. _____

H.B. 623

S.J.R.

И. Г. Р.

Amended S.B. _____
Amended H.B. _____
Date of Amendment _____

| I. Estimated Effect on Revenue and/or Expenditures | Fiscal Year 1980 | | | | Fiscal Year 1981 | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| | Estimated Amount Under Current Law | Estimated Amount Under Proposed Law | Estimated Increase (Decrease) | Estimated Amount Under Current Law | Estimated Amount Under Proposed Law | Estimated Increase (Decrease) | | |
| A. Effect on Revenue By Source: (List in Detail) | (000) | | | | | | | |
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FISCAL NOTE WORKSHEET

REQUEST NO. _____

Form 10-1-1

(Office of Budget and Program Planning Use Only)

II. ASSUMPTIONS USED IN OBTAINING ESTIMATES: (Please list clearly and in detail; use extra sheets if necessary)

List assumptions made during preparation of the fiscal note. If certain costs associated with the proposed legislation can be absorbed without additional funds, indicate this as an assumption. If no dollar estimates have been presented, list reasons in this space.

.5 FTE to set up program first year. .25 FTE annually thereafter absorbed by existing personnel statewide. Initial costs of films, printing, etc. would be greater. Once initiated, program cost would be basically as needed for replacement.

Personnel costs would be spread statewide.

III. DERIVATION OF ESTIMATES:

Show basic calculations or provide a brief description of the techniques used to obtain estimates; also, cite sources of basic data used for projections.

Washington was the first state to establish a trapper education program in the U.S. They have approximately 2,000 licensed trappers in the state. They have annual average program attendance of approximately 900 students. Washington's first year costs in establishing the program were about \$10,000. They have averaged \$2,000 annually in program costs since.

Montana licenses in excess of 3,000 trappers annually. In addition, there are about 400 licensed landowner trappers and several hundred unlicensed predator trappers. The unlicensed predator trapper has presented more of a problem in recent years than the licensed fur trapper.

(Office of Budget and Program Planning Use Only)

IV. AFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUE OR EXPENDITURES:

Provide an estimate of the local impact.

None

V. LONG-RANGE EFFECTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

Use this space to describe any potentially significant effects the proposed legislation might have on expenditures and/or revenues for fiscal years subsequent to FY 1981; give quantitative estimates whenever possible.

Expenditure of approximately \$2500 to \$3000 annually, depending on current rate of inflation.

VI. TECHNICAL OR MECHANICAL DEFECTS OR CONFLICTS WITH EXISTING LEGISLATION:

Explain.

Does not include predator trappers which are a major source of problems. Also, it appears approximately 500 licensed landowner trappers are exempt from this provision but the issuance of a Class C-1 landowner license would qualify an applicant for a Class C general trapper's license.

Agency Representative who Prepared Estimates:

(Name)

(Title)

(Date)

(Phone No)

Received _____

Analyzed by _____

Fiscal Note by _____

Date _____

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. _____

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received _____, 19 _____, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note
or _____ pursuant to Chapter 53, Laws of Montana, 1965 - Thirty-Ninth Legislative Assembly.
Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members
of the Legislature upon request.

Description of Proposed Legislation: An act to establish a trapper education program;
to require evidence of completion of such course, a comparable course, or prior possession
of a valid trapper's license before issuance of a Class C trapper's license.

Assumptions:

1. Average number of general trappers licenses issued annually is approximately 3100.
2. As many as 50% or 1500 might attend a trapper education course annually during the first two years based on the state of Washington program.
3. A minimum of 100 instructors would require training and certification to assure availability of the program statewide.
4. This instructor training, curriculum development, program publicity, acquiring and distribution of supplies and materials, providing a permanent record system for instructors and students, and local classroom assistance statewide is estimated to require .5 FTE to initiate the program statewide and .25 FTE each year thereafter. The required FTE would be spread over existing personnel statewide.

BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: _____

NAME: Bob Bird DATE: 3-8-79

ADDRESS: Dept of Fish and Game

PHONE: 449-2452

REPRESENTING WHOM? Dept of Fish and Game

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: NB 623 ~~551~~

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: written testimony avail.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST FOR FISCAL NOTE

Form BD 13

A FISCAL NOTE IS REQUESTED FOR:

S. B. _____

Amended S.B. _____

S.J.R. _____

H. B. 623

Amended H.B. _____

H.J.R. _____

Date of Amendment _____

Attached is a copy of a Legislative proposal which appears to require a fiscal note as authorized under Chapter 53, Laws of Montana, 1965 - Thirty-Ninth Legislative Assembly.

Presiding Officer

Date

Receipt of the above fiscal note request is hereby acknowledged
on this _____ day of _____, 19 _____.

Office of Budget and
Program Planning

Fiscal Note No. 308-79

Receipt of the above fiscal note request and associated worksheets
is hereby acknowledged on this 9 day of February, 19 79.

I understand that the completed worksheets and the bill must be returned to
the Office of Budget and Program Planning on or before February 14, 1979

Name _____

Agency Fish and Game

As the Presiding Officer of the _____

I do hereby acknowledge on this _____ day of _____

19 _____, receipt of four copies of Fiscal Note Number _____

for _____

11-11-1936

TESTIMONY OFFERED ON HB623

THIS TESTIMONY IS RESPECTFULLY OFFERED BY JOHN B HARRIS OF EAST HELENA MONTANA.

GENTLEMEN:

I HAVE TRAPPED IN MONTANA SINCE 1936 WITH FIVE YEARS OUT DURING WORLD WAR TWO. I AM UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL IN QUESTION. AT PRESENT THERE IS A SURPLUS OF TRAPPERS IN MOST OF MONTANA, ESPECIALLY FOR SOME OF THE FUR BEARING ANIMALS.

THE GOAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS CONCERNING TRAPPERS IN MY OPINION SHOULD BE DIRECTED AT PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF MONTANA TRAPPERS, NOT LEGISLATION WHICH ADDS MORE REGULATION AND MORE BEUROCRATIC HARRASMENT TO THE BURDEN OF A GROUP WHICH HAS ENOUGH TROUBLES FROM THIEVERY, WEATHER, AND ANIMAL DRIFT AND MOVEMENT TO OUTLINE A FEW.

THERE ARE AVAILABLE MANY FINE PUBLICATIONS AND ALSO ACCOMPLISHED PROFESSIONALS WHO DEAL IN INSTRUCTION SALE, BOTH SOURCES TURNING OUT YOUNG TRAPPERS OF OUTSTANDING QUALITY. THESE BOOKS AND HANDS ON INSTRUCTION WRITTEN AND PRESENTED BY PEOPLE WHO TRULY KNOW THIER BUSINESS ARE MUCH PREFERABLE TO THE TYPE WHICH WOULD BE PRESENTED BY FISH AND GAME OR VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS.

ALL PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE PRPOSED BILL ADVOCATES ULTIMATELY COST MONEY FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT NEITHER OF WHICH MONTANA IS OVERLY BLESSED WITH IN THESE TIMES.

IN SUMMATION I SAY LET YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE MOTIVATED TO TRAP, PAY THIER OWN BILL FOR LEARNING BOTH IN MONEY OUT OF POCKET AND IN THE HARD SCHOOL OF NATURE WHERE THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD OLD HARD WORK AND THAT KNOWLEGE WHICH COMES ABOUT FROM EXPERIANCE

PRESENTED IN SINCERITY,

John B. Harris

NAME: LES BARTON DATE: 3/8/79

ADDRESS: 712 PENNSYLVANIA-DEERLODGE

PHONE: 846-1127

REPRESENTING WHOM? MONTANA TRAPPER'S ASSOCIATION

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB623 TRAPPER EDUCATION

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: _____

no 1. need of this is to obtain permission
of Rancher's before trapping

HB623 is one of the best Farmer-
Rancher-stockmen Bills in legislature
teaching traps, kind of traps to use,
how game laws & kind of animals to
trap is important part of EDUCATION.
Help Ranchers & stockmen where
possible

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

Les Barton
Chairman and Committee

NAME: Frank S. Stark DATE: March 8, 1979

ADDRESS: PO Box 1001 Salmon Montana 59860

PHONE: 88-3-2642

REPRESENTING WHOM? Salmon Outdoors Inc

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: PZR 29

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: We want the size of ice fishing holes
limited as a safety measure. People cut large
holes, sometimes with chain saws, to fish. The
ice breaks away as hole is cut right under them
then it snows. The snow slides into hole
and weakens it. A person can fall through ice
to go fishing and drop through. People
hole into water. Some are caught drowning.
We support bill as safety measure.

NAME: Willis L. Kent DATE: 3-8-79

ADDRESS: Box 336 Merita

PHONE: 654-1645

REPRESENTING WHOM? M.T.A.

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL, H.B.# 623

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: _____

NAME: Linn B. Bailey DATE: March 1, 1972

ADDRESS: 301-6th St. N. Bloomington

PHONE: 883-2207

REPRESENTING WHOM? Bloomington Area

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: D & R 29

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: Letter regarding trip to and back

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Harold G. Goff DATE: March 1967

ADDRESS: Box 712

PHONE: 583-2093

REPRESENTING WHOM? Robert L. Allen

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: S. J. R. # 27

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: _____

a bill to limit the size of
the fishing vessel. There was
discussing the removal of
the 100 ton limit.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 3, 1979

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on FISH AND GAME

having had under consideration SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 29

Respectfully report as follows: That SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 29

DO PASS

SENATE COMMITTEE FISH AND GAME

Date 3-8-79 APR Bill No. 19 Time 2:04

| NAME | YES | NO |
|------------------------------|-------------|----|
| | | |
| SMITH, Ed, Chairman | | ✓ |
| GALT, Jack E., Vice Chairman | | ✓ |
| ANDERSON, Mike | | ✓ |
| GOODOVER, Pat M. | (Ph. train) | |
| MANLEY, John E. | (✓) | |
| STIMATZ, Lawrence G. | | ✓ |
| VAN VALKENBURG, Fred | | ✓ |
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Sherri R. Smith
Secretary

ED B. SMITH
Chairman

Motion: By Sen Manley
Pl. 4th (Ph. train)
Failed 5-1

(include enough information on motion--put with yellow copy of committee report.)

SENATE COMMITTEE FISH AND GAME

Date 3-8-79 100 Bill No. 29 Time 2:05

| NAME | YES | NO |
|------------------------------|---------|----|
| | | |
| | | |
| SMITH, Ed, Chairman | ✓ | |
| GALT, Jack E., Vice Chairman | ✓ | |
| ANDERSON, Mike | ✓ | |
| GOODOVER, Pat M. | Abstain | |
| MANLEY, John E. | | ✓ |
| STIMATZ, Lawrence G. | ✓ | |
| VAN VALKENBURG, Fred | ✓ | |
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Sherri R. Smith
Secretary

ED B. SMITH
Chairman

Motion: Pls Pass
Carried 5-1

(include enough information on motion--put with yellow copy of committee report.)