

SENATE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE
COMMENTS BY LEGISLATIVE RESEARCHER

March 14, 1981

House Bill 222 (Robbins)

This act designed after a model act is to limit noise emissions from engines powering motorboats on Montana waters. The bill provides for a gradual reduction of allowable noise emissions on motorboats operated or sold after January 1, 1982. The original amendment in Section 1 would have covered motorboat engine noise before January 1, 1978; the House amendment would have this bill only apply to noise emissions of engines manufactured after January 1, 1978.

Section 2 requires manufacturers of marine engines manufactured after January 1, 1982, to certify with the Department of Fish and Game that the engine offered for sale complies with the noise levels prescribed in Section 1. The department shall adopt rules prescribing the manner of certification and testing.

Section 3 prohibits altering of an engine to exceed the limits in the act.

Section 4 provides exceptions to the act such as motorboats participating in authorized races, search and rescue crafts, and air boats when used by utility companies.

Section 6 raises the identification number application fee from \$1.00 to \$2.00.

House Bill 806 (Manuel)

By request of the Senate Fish and Game Committee, this bill increases the amount of money available for operation, development, and maintenance of fishing accesses from 15% to 50% of the funds set aside each year from the sale of fishing licenses. One dollar of Class A and Class B-4 licenses and \$5.00 from Class B and Class B-3 licenses go into this fund.

House Bill 152 (Donaldson) By request of the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.

This is an act to prohibit the possession of bats, skunks, foxes, or raccoons as pets to control the transmission of rabies.

The act would allow the Department of Health the authority to add other species to the list if the chance of rabies occurring in the species increases beyond its present level.

House Bill 152 (continued)

Wild animals possessed six months prior to January 1, 1982, are exempt, as are those possessed for a fur-bearing enterprise, scientific research, or a zoological exhibition with proper protection for the public.

Whenever a person unlawfully possesses a wild animal either the Department of Health or the Department of Livestock may impound the animal or take other action to protect public health. If it has bitten someone, it may be quarantined, destroyed and the brain tested for rabies. Expenses incurred by the state must be paid by the owner.

Any person who violates this act may be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$100.00 per day.