

1 *Thom* House BILL NO. 621 *Kenny*  
 2 INTRODUCED BY *W. B. Smith* *Ed. Hagan* *Dassinger* *Stobin* *Held*  
 3 *W. B. Smith* *O. Annett* *Garrett* *Haenrich* *Brand* *Heppner* *Leach* *Wagon*  
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE FISH  
 5 AND GAME COMMISSION TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO PROTECT THE *Wood*  
 6 SAFETY OF PERSONS LICENSED TO TAKE FISH AND GAME IN MONTANA *Wright*  
 7 AND PROVIDING REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED BY LOCAL *Wood*  
 8 GOVERNMENT IN SUPERVISING AND CONDUCTING SEARCHES FOR LOST *Wright*  
 9 OUT-OF-STATE LICENSEES; AND PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL FEES TO *Reming*  
 10 ASSIST IN PAYING FOR THIS PROGRAM." *Sully*

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1 costs incurred in providing the assistance. An additional  
 2 fee of 50 cents shall be added to the license fee for each  
 3 class of license indicated above. Revenues from this fee  
 4 shall be used by the commission to reimburse local  
 5 government agencies under this section.

-End-

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

Section 1. Protecting the safety of hunting and fishing licensees -- additional license fee. The fish and game commission may adopt reasonable rules to protect the safety of persons licensed to take fish and game in the state of Montana. Local government agencies charged with public safety responsibility may assist the commission in protecting the safety of persons under this section by taking charge of search and rescue operations that may be required. A local government agency that assists the commission by searching for a person who is reported lost while attempting to take fish or game in Montana and who holds a Class B, B-1, B-2, B-3, B-5, B-6, B-7, B-8, or B-10 license as provided in 2b-201.1 may bill the commission for

INTRODUCED BILL

HB 621

## STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. 337-77

## FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received February 1, 19 77, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for House Bill 621 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:

House Bill 621 allows the Department of Fish and Game to adopt "reasonable rules" to protect the safety of persons licensed to take fish and game in the state of Montana. Local government public safety agencies may assist the department by taking charge of search and rescue operations of lost or injured sportsmen.

A local government agency that assists the department by searching for a non-resident hunter or fisherman who is reported lost may bill the Department of Fish and Game for cost incurred in providing the assistance. An additional fee of 50 cents for non-resident licenses is proposed to reimburse the search and rescue expenses of local government agencies.

## ASSUMPTIONS:

1. If a non-resident sportsman becomes lost in Montana and a local government public safety agency is involved in the necessary search and rescue operation, the Department of Fish and Game is wholly responsible for reimbursing that local agency all costs incurred in such a search and rescue operation. There is no way to estimate the actual expenses utilized on non-resident search and rescue operations in Montana. Generally, search and rescue operations are currently coordinated by the county sheriff's office through the use of voluntary search and rescue organizations. The Fish and Game Department has not been extensively involved in the search and rescue operations of lost hunters.
2. The total costs of non-resident sportsmen related search and rescue operations might exceed the revenue generated by the 50 cent non-resident fee increase.
3. No additional administrative costs will be needed to collect the non-resident fee increase.

## REVENUE IMPACT:

	<u>FY78</u>	<u>FY79</u>
Non-resident F&G license fee collections:		
Under proposed law	\$2,316,593	\$2,409,257
Under current law	<u>2,291,908</u>	<u>2,383,585</u>
Increase in non-resident F&G license fee collections earmarked for non-resident search and rescue operations.	<u>\$ 24,685</u>	<u>\$ 25,672</u>

## EXPENDITURE IMPACT:

No dollar estimate can be made for possible expenditures under House Bill 621. However, in FY76, the National Park Service performed 14 actual search and rescue operations in Glacier National Park at an average cost of \$631 for each operation. Total search and rescue costs were \$8,834. In Yellowstone National Park during the 1976 fiscal year, the National Park Service was involved in 28 actual search and rescue operations at a cost of \$872 per operation. A total of 2,713 manhours were involved at a total cost of \$24,416.

The two National Park Service examples provide some index into the actual cost involved with search and rescue operations in Montana.

*Richard L. Long*  
BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: February 8, 1977