LC 1550/01 45th Legislature

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO PROHIBIT, BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THE STATE, THE PRACTICE OF CHARGING CITIZENS FOR 5 THE RIGHT TO HUNT OR FISH: AND TO PROHIBIT ALL HUNTING ON LANDS POSTED AGAINST TRESPASS."

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

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Section 1. Purpose. The legislature reaffirms the historical principle that wildlife, including all game and fish, are the property of the state; that wildlife are free to roam and subsist where they may; and that the existence of wild fish or wild game confers no ownership rights on anyone other than the state of Montana.

Section 2. Charging of fees prohibited - exceptions. It is unlawful for any person or entity other than the state of Montana to levy a charge for the opportunity to hunt, take, pursue, shoot, or trap wildlife, including but not limited to game animals, fish, or fur-bearing animals except that:

- (1) charges may be made for room and board furnished by a landowner to a person hunting, fishing, or trapping on his land:
- (2) licensed outfitters and guides may make usual 25

charges for provision of vehicles, stock animals, equipment,

- and personal services as a quide; and
- 3 (3) a charge of not more than \$2 per day may be made for allowing wehicle parking or for time and trouble of the landowner in issuing written permission notices.
- 6 Section 3. Prohibition against hunting and trapping on 7 posted lands. When any land, owned privately or by the state, including school trust lands, is posted by means of signs indicating "no trespassing", "no hunting", "no entry", 10 or other similar phrases, that land is closed to all 11 hunting or trapping by any person, including the owner or 12 lessee, unless the owner or lessee does in practice give 13 permission to members of the public that allows them to 14 hunt and so indicates on signs that have been posted.
- 15 Section 4. Penalty. A person who is convicted of 16 violating the provisions of [section 2 or 3] is guilty of a 17 misdemeanor and may be fined not more than \$100.

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