

## HOUSE BILL NO. 134

INTRODUCED BY C. COCHRAN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS TO OFFER FINANCIAL REWARDS AND REWARD PERMITS AS PART OF THE FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS CRIMESTOPPERS PROGRAM; AND AMENDING SECTION 87-5-605, MCA."

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

**Section 1.** Section 87-5-605, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-5-605. Powers and duties of department -- rules.** (1) The department shall:

(a) create, maintain, and promote a statewide fish, wildlife, and parks crimestoppers program in order to assist law enforcement agencies in detecting and combating fish, wildlife, and parks-related crimes; and

(b) consider the board's recommendations and take action on them.

(2) The department may:

(a) advise and assist in the creation and maintenance of local programs, including neighborhood watch programs;

(b) encourage the channeling of information from state and local programs to law enforcement agencies;

(c) foster the detection of fish, wildlife, and parks-related crimes by the public;

(d) encourage the public, through a reward program or otherwise, to provide information that assists in the prosecution of fish, wildlife, and parks-related crimes;

(e) offer financial rewards, reward permits, or other incentives to the public;

~~(e)~~(f) promote state and local programs through the media;

~~(f)~~(g) accept gifts, grants, or donations for the furtherance of the program and spend these in compliance with the conditions of the gifts, grants, or donations; and

~~(g)~~(h) adopt rules necessary to administer the provisions of this part."

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