

HOUSE BILL NO. 402

INTRODUCED BY F. SMITH, D. BAUM, C. FITZPATRICK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REDESIGNATING WOLF POINT AS THE SITE OF THE MONTANA COWBOY HALL OF FAME AND WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER; DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO IDENTIFY IT AS SUCH ON OFFICIAL STATE MAPS; AMENDING SECTION 1-1-525, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, Wolf Point has the oldest continually held rodeo in Montana; and

WHEREAS, Wolf Point was home of rodeo legend stock contractor Marvin Brookman, who was the oldest active Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association cardholder in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to local history that is provided in Marvin Presser's book Wolf Point: A City of Destiny, it was during the midteens of the 1900s that "local Cowboys and Indians would hold an impromptu gathering and stage a little afternoon rodeo on the downtown dirt streets on a summer afternoon"; and

WHEREAS, Wolf Point is located on the stretch of U.S. Highway 2, a coast-to-coast artery of the United States, that was originally part of the Theodore Roosevelt International Highway when it was first constructed in 1919; and

WHEREAS, local history reflects traditions of the Indian horsemen, along with some of the largest cattle and horse ranches in Montana; and

WHEREAS, Wolf Point is the birthplace of renowned Hollywood movie star, trick rope performer, and American cowboy hero Montie Montana; and

WHEREAS, the hall of fame would be housed in conjunction with a museum facility currently in development along U.S. Highway 2 in Wolf Point.

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

Section 1. Section 1-1-525, MCA, is amended to read:

1 **"1-1-525. Montana cowboy hall of fame and western heritage center.** (1) ~~There is a~~ The city of
2 ~~Wolf Point is designated the site of the~~ Montana cowboy hall of fame and western heritage center. ~~Once the~~
3 ~~recipient of the grant for site development and project planning authorized pursuant to section 4(7), Chapter 3,~~
4 ~~Special Laws of May 2007, determines the location of the Montana cowboy hall of fame, the grant recipient~~
5 ~~shall notify the department of commerce and the department of transportation.~~

6 (2) ~~Once notified that the location of the Montana cowboy hall of fame is determined, the~~ The
7 ~~department of commerce and the department of transportation shall identify the site~~ the city of Wolf Point ~~as the~~
8 ~~location of the Montana cowboy hall of fame~~ and western heritage center ~~on official state maps. When existing~~
9 ~~road signs need replacement, the department of transportation shall provide appropriate markers to recognize~~
10 ~~the site."~~

12 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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