

HOUSE BILL NO. 234

INTRODUCED BY N. BALLANCE

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO SHOOTING RANGE GRANT FUNDS; CREATING A SHOOTING RANGE GRANT ACCOUNT; REQUIRING THE EXPENDITURE OR OBLIGATION OF FUNDS WITHIN THE YEAR THEY ARE APPROPRIATED; PROVIDING PENALTIES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 87-1-279, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Shooting range grant account.** (1) There is a shooting range grant account in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102. Subject to appropriation by the legislature, money deposited in this account must be distributed by the department pursuant to 87-1-277 through 87-1-279.

(2) The following funds must be deposited in the account:

(a) money received by the department from any source in the form of gifts, grants, reimbursements, or appropriations intended to be used for the purposes of the account; and

(b) any interest or income earned on the account.

(3) Any unspent or unencumbered money in the account at the end of a fiscal year must remain in the account.

**Section 2.** Section 87-1-279, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-1-279. Program rules -- expenditure or obligation of funds required.** (1) The department may not use more than 15% of the program funds for administration.

(2) The department shall develop a simple application procedure and accountability system.

(3) The department shall ~~make every effort to~~ expend or obligate funds for shooting range improvement grants within the year for which they are appropriated.

(4) The department shall prioritize grant applications according to those that provide facilities for the greatest number of shooters, that accommodate the use of a combination of hunting arms, and that meet other criteria established by the department.



1 (5) The department may not grant more than 30% of the eligible funds for the establishment or  
2 improvement of any single facility in any year.

3 (6) The department shall promote the use of publicly owned land for shooting range facilities. The  
4 department may negotiate with federal, state, and local agencies to encourage land trades, shared or specific  
5 use designations, and other mechanisms to provide land for shooting range facilities.

6 (7) A person who makes a decision not to expend or obligate funds in accordance with this section or  
7 who expends funds appropriated for the purposes of 87-1-277 through 87-1-279 for a different purpose commits  
8 the offense of official misconduct as provided in 45-7-401."

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10 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation.** In each year of the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, there  
11 is appropriated \$500,000 from the general license account to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks for  
12 shooting range grants distributed pursuant to 87-1-277 through 87-1-279.

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14 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable  
15 from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part  
16 remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

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18 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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