

SENATE BILL NO. 183

INTRODUCED BY G. HERTZ, J. SECKINGER

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING AN OUTFITTER ENDORSEMENT FOR GUIDE LICENSURE; AMENDING SECTION 37-47-303, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, professional relationships between guides and endorsing outfitters has been an industry tradition and licensure standard for generations; and

WHEREAS, existing statute allows for the licensure of guides without requiring an outfitter endorsement, thus reducing the industry's ability to regulate its own professional standards; and

WHEREAS, public health, safety, and welfare is best served by ensuring that guides meet the qualifications and industry standards of Montana's outfitters in addition to those of the Board of Outfitters.

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

Section 1. Section 37-47-303, MCA, is amended to read:

"37-47-303. Guide's qualifications. An applicant for a guide's license must:

- (1) be 18 years of age or older and be physically capable and mentally competent to perform the duties of a guide;
- (2) be endorsed and recommended by an outfitter with a valid license, ~~unless otherwise qualified under guide standards established by the board pursuant to 37-47-201(4); and~~
- (3) have been issued a valid conservation license."

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

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