

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0006

Game and fish-trapping.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and  
Cultural Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; providing for the  
2 regulation of specifications for trapping and snaring  
3 through rule and regulation; providing time periods for the  
4 checking of snares and traps; providing for exceptions; and  
5 providing for effective dates.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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9       **Section 1.** W.S. 23-2-303(d), by creating a new  
10 subsection (e) and by amending and renumbering (e) as (f)  
11 and by renumbering (f) as (g) and 23-3-103(a) are amended  
12 to read:

13

14       **23-2-303. Trapping licenses; tagging; traps and**  
15 **snares; penalty; confiscation; inspection; interference**  
16 **with trapping.**

1

2 (d) The commission, following consultation with other  
3 affected entities, may promulgate rules and regulations  
4 establishing specifications for snares, breakaway weights,  
5 location of breakaway devices, loop size and anchors for  
6 trapping and snaring of furbearing and predatory animals.

7 All traps and snares used for furbearing or predatory  
8 animals shall be permanently marked or tagged with the name  
9 and address of the owner or the identification number  
10 assigned to the owner by the department. Any  
11 identification number attached to a trap or snare pursuant  
12 to this subsection is solely for the use of the department  
13 or appropriate law enforcement officers and is not a public  
14 record for purposes of W.S. 16-4-201 through 16-4-205. No  
15 trap or snare shall be set for furbearing or predatory  
16 animals within thirty (30) feet of any exposed bait or  
17 carcass over five (5) pounds in weight. As used in this  
18 subsection, "exposed bait or carcass" means the meat or  
19 viscera of any part of a mammal, bird or fish, excluding  
20 dried bones. ~~In addition,~~ All snares used for taking  
21 furbearing or predatory animals shall be equipped with a  
22 break-away ~~locking~~ device. ~~that is designed to release at~~  
23 ~~two hundred ninety five (295) pounds of pressure or less~~  
24 ~~and a snare loop not to exceed twelve (12) inches in~~

1 ~~diameter measured side to side.~~ Unless otherwise specified  
2 in this ~~section~~ subsection, all steel-jawed leghold traps,  
3 ~~excluding snares set for furbearing animals and predatory~~  
4 ~~animals and quick kill body grip traps as defined by~~  
5 ~~commission rule and regulation,~~ shall be checked by the  
6 owner at least once during each seventy-two (72) hour  
7 period ~~from the time the traps were set~~ unless extensions  
8 are granted by the department. All snares and quick kill  
9 body grip traps shall be checked by the owner not less than  
10 once each ~~seven (7) day period from the time the traps were~~  
11 ~~set~~ week unless extensions are granted by the department.  
12 All wildlife caught in any trap or snare shall upon  
13 discovery, be removed immediately by the owner. Violation  
14 of this subsection constitutes a low misdemeanor punishable  
15 as provided in W.S. 23-6-202(a)(v).

16

17 (e) After the date gray wolves are removed from the  
18 list of experimental nonessential population, endangered  
19 species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by  
20 W.S. 23-1-108 the commission may enact rules and  
21 regulations setting forth the specifications for traps and  
22 snares used for the taking of gray wolves and the time  
23 period for checking such traps and snares. Except as  
24 otherwise provided by commission rule, the provisions in

1 this section regulating the trapping of furbearing and  
2 predatory animals shall apply to the trapping of gray  
3 wolves.

4

5 ~~(e)~~(f) Any trap or snare found in the field not  
6 bearing the name and address of the owner of the trap or  
7 snare or the identification number assigned by the  
8 department to the owner of the trap or snare may be  
9 confiscated by any employee of the department. Any  
10 landowner or his agent may inspect any trap or snare set on  
11 his property, ~~and~~ may remove the trap or snare and may  
12 release or remove from the trap or snare any wildlife which  
13 has not been taken lawfully. The landowner or his agent  
14 shall ~~immediately~~ notify the department of any such  
15 wildlife, excluding predatory animals, ~~prior to~~ as soon as  
16 practicably possible after removing the wildlife from a  
17 trap or snare.

18

19 ~~(f)~~(g) A violation of this subsection constitutes a  
20 low misdemeanor punishable as provided in W.S.  
21 23-6-202(a)(v). Except as otherwise provided in this  
22 section, no person shall intentionally:

23

1           (i) Tamper with or remove a trap or snare set  
2 and maintained in compliance with this act; or

3

4           (ii) Release or remove a furbearer or predator  
5 from a trap or snare set and maintained in compliance with  
6 this act.

7

8           **23-3-103. Taking predatory animals, predacious birds**  
9 **and trophy animals; taking furbearing animals and game**  
10 **birds without license prohibited.**

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12           (a) Predatory animals and predacious birds may be  
13 taken without a license in any manner and at any time  
14 except as provided by W.S. 23-2-303(d) and (e), 23-3-112,  
15 23-3-304(b), 23-3-305 and 23-3-307. The department shall  
16 report annually to the Wyoming department of agriculture  
17 the number of predatory animals and predacious birds taken  
18 by the department's animal damage control agents, and  
19 include in the report the area where taken and the control  
20 method used.

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22           **Section 2.** The commission shall adopt final rules to  
23 implement this act not later than July 1, 2009.

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1           **Section 3.**

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3           (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of  
4 this section, this act is effective July 1, 2009.

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6           (b) Section 2 of this act is effective immediately  
7 upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become  
8 law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
9 Constitution.

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11

(END)