



AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MONTANA MINING DAY.

WHEREAS, the state motto of Montana, adopted on February 9, 1865, is "oro y plata", which is Spanish for "gold and silver", and reflects our mining heritage and vast mineral wealth; and

WHEREAS, the Great Seal of the state of Montana is a vivid symbol of all that is special about our state and includes the state motto and a miner's pick and shovel; and

WHEREAS, the nickname of Montana is "the Treasure State", which was chosen because of the state's vast mineral resources; and

WHEREAS, gold was first discovered in Montana in the 1850s, leading to major finds at Bannack, Virginia City, Silver Bow Creek, and Prickly Pear Creek; and

WHEREAS, these major finds brought many of the first settlers and developers to Montana, leading to its early economic and societal growth and the discovery and development of many other deposits of metals and minerals, including coal, silver, and copper; and

WHEREAS, mining in Montana subsequently grew and supplied the nation with much of its mineral resource needs, including copper from Butte that was smelted in Anaconda and refined in Great Falls, and which powered the electrification of America and fueled the country's victorious efforts in both World Wars; and

WHEREAS, the mining of lignite and bituminous coal from eastern Montana coal beds heated homes and fired steam-powered locomotives in the early 20th century and continues to provide the largest share of Montana's electricity generation; and

WHEREAS, Montana's placer, underground, and surface mining employed thousands at hundreds of mines, producing billions in wealth; and

WHEREAS, the mining industry continues to contribute billions of dollars to Montana's economy, creating thousands of permanent jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenues to the state and local communities each year; and

WHEREAS, there have been thousands of miners who died in the early days of Montana mining, but whose deaths have led to world-leading safety and labor standards for workers today; and

WHEREAS, there have been historic environmental and social impacts from mining in Montana that have led to world-leading environmental regulations and financial assurances for the protection of our environment and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature authorized in 1893 the creation of the Montana State School of Mines in Butte, now known as Montana Technological University (Montana Tech), which continues to be one of the nation's leading schools in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and mining of natural resources today; and

WHEREAS, Montana continues to hold significant deposits of minerals, including those critical for our nation's current and future defense, economic and technological advancement, and energy transition and security; and

WHEREAS, our state is proud of its heritage, its present, and its future in mining and mineral processing and believes it is vital to promote and educate the public about the costs and benefits of responsible mining in Montana sufficiently and accurately.

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

Section 1. Montana mining day. There is established a mining day for the state of Montana. The Montana mining day is February 9 of each year to commemorate when the territorial government adopted the state motto.

Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 1, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 1, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 203, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

HOUSE BILL NO. 203

INTRODUCED BY C. SCHOMER, S. KLAKKEN, J. SECKINGER, K. LOVE, J. SOOKTIS, C. COCHRAN, E.
TILLEMAN, D. BEDEY, E. BUTTREY, S. GIST, C. HINKLE, R. MARSHALL, N. NICOL, A. REGIER, C.
SPRUNGER, D. HARVEY, S. FITZPATRICK, B. LER, L. DEMING, J. GILLETTE, B. BARKER, L. BREWSTER,
T. FALK, J. FITZPATRICK, T. FRANCE, D. LENZ, T. MCGILLVRAY, B. MERCER, B. MITCHELL, G.
NIKOLAKAKOS, K. SEEKINS-CROWE, S. MANESS, J. HINKLE, C. FITZPATRICK

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