

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 411

2 INTRODUCED BY B. HARRIS

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT RECOGNIZING AND COMMEMORATING ED MCGIVERN;
5 DESIGNATING LEWISTOWN, MONTANA, AS THE OFFICIAL HOME OF THE ED MCGIVERN MUSEUM;
6 DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
7 IDENTIFY IT ON OFFICIAL STATE MAPS AND HIGHWAY SIGNS; REQUIRING THE CAPITOL COMPLEX
8 ADVISORY COUNCIL TO NAME A BUILDING AT THE MONTANA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY AFTER
9 ED MCGIVERN; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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11 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern (October 20, 1874 - December 12, 1957) lived in Lewistown and Great Falls,
12 Montana; and

13 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern was an ordinary, unpretentious man who made his living painting signs; and

14 WHEREAS, most Montanans have not heard of Ed McGivern or of his accomplishments as a Montanan;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern was a nationally recognized exhibition revolver shooter (both double-action
17 and single-action); and

18 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern was a pioneer in scientifically investigating and documenting the capabilities
19 of the revolver and in developing his own shooting methods and timing devices; and

20 WHEREAS, numerous articles by Ed McGivern and about him were published in "Guns", "Guns
21 Quarterly", "American Rifleman", "Western Wildlife", "Sports Afield", "Outdoor Life", "True West", "Adventure",
22 "All Western Magazine", "Voice of the Sportsman", "Denver Post Empire", "Lewistown News Argus", "Great Falls
23 Tribune", "Shooting Times", and "Life Magazine"; and

24 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern is renowned as one of the best handgunners that ever lived; and

25 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern authored the book "Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting", published in 1938;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern trained Montana law enforcement and Federal Bureau of Investigation officers
28 in revolver shooting; and

29 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern was appointed Colonel, Ballistic Corps, Ordnance Department of the Montana
30 National Guard by Governor Roy Ayers in December 1940, was an honorary member of the Montana Highway

1 Patrol and the Lewistown Police Department, was a member of the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers
2 Association, was a member of the Montana Police Protective Association, and was a life member of the Ed
3 McGivern Pistol Club in Great Falls; and

4 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern set many shooting records with the revolver; and

5 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern shot with factory double-action revolvers that were unmodified except for his
6 famous McGivern gold bead front sight; and

7 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern's speed record (set several times) for shooting five shots from a double-action
8 revolver in 2/5 of a second with all shots in the area of a playing card at 15 feet has never been equaled; and

9 WHEREAS, this rate of fire is greater than the cyclical rate of the AK-47 automatic rifle; and

10 WHEREAS, this record was set when Ed McGivern was 58 years old; and

11 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern could shoot two double-action revolvers simultaneously from the left and right
12 hands in 1 1/5 seconds and keep both five-shot groups within the area of a playing card at 15 feet; with the draw
13 included, he could do the same in 1 1/2 seconds; and

14 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern could empty two double-action revolvers, one after the other in less than 2
15 seconds; and

16 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern excelled in aerial shooting with a double-action revolver; and

17 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern broke six simultaneously hand-thrown aerial clay targets with a double-action
18 revolver at the Central Montana Fair in Lewistown in 1932 and could shoot a can thrown 20 feet in the air six
19 times; and

20 WHEREAS, Ed McGivern was known as a firearms expert and testified in at least 37 trials involving
21 firearms between 1914 and 1943.

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

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25 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Official home of Ed McGivern museum.** (1) The town of Lewistown is
26 designated the "official home of the Ed McGivern museum".

27 (2) The department of commerce and the department of transportation shall identify the town of
28 Lewistown as the official home of the Ed McGivern museum on official state maps.

29 (3) The department of transportation shall erect and maintain signs designating the town of Lewistown
30 as the official home of the Ed McGivern museum along highways in the vicinity of Lewistown and shall accomplish

1 the signing changes in accordance with the department's normal sign maintenance and replacement schedule.

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Building at Montana law enforcement academy to be named for Ed**
4 **McGivern.** The capitol complex advisory council provided for in 2-17-803 shall name an appropriate building at
5 the Montana law enforcement academy after Ed McGivern.

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7 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
8 integral part of Title 1, chapter 1, part 5, and the provisions of Title 1, chapter 1, part 5, apply to [section 1].

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10 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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