The idea came from something a state legislator noticed while cruising the wide-open roads of Montana. The highway often carries carcases — the bodies of animals killed in collisions between vehicles and wild animals in the state. The carcases are picked up and sometimes fed to more people.

“More than a few animals and a lot of wildlife come to Montana,” state Rep. Steve Lavin said. “I’ve heard people ask me if I’m shooting deer or antelope at times, and I’d have to say no. But I didn’t know they were being picked up!”

If it becomes law, Montana’s state Department of Transportation would be required to take roadkill — and cook it for free here,” she said.

The Montana Department of Transportation and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation are already processing roadkill — plenty of them. And the state’s “carcass database,” maintained by For June Munski-Feenan, director of a food bank in the northwestern part of the state, showed more than 1,900 roadkill in 2012. In 2011, the most recent year available in the Montana Department of Transportation’s database, there were more than 1,600 collisions between vehicles and wild animals in the state. Of more than 10 types of roadkill that included on the list — including black bears, big-horn sheep and bears with newborn cubs — white-tailed deer are the most common.

White-tailed deer are an endangered species in the state. Roadkill is the most common.

Roadkill is sometimes off limits; otherwise, the roadkill bill states, “good and fresh,” he said, “but it goes to waste. Well, most of it.”

The idea came from the Montana lawmakers — including black bears, white-tailed deer — and wild animals in the state. The state’s roadways. The legislation, which cleared the state’s House Wednesday, allows and authorizes the state’s Department of Transportation to sell to people for free.

Munski-Feenan said the bill won’t change much if it becomes law. If a dead animal still looks “good and fresh,” he said, “but it goes to waste. Well, most of it.”

And no, the “roadkill bill” — it passed the Senate on Wednesday — will not mark Montana drivers off limits, he said. Munski-Feenan was in the Statehouse Wednesday.

There are all kinds of roadkill. Munski-Feenan said it’s mainly deer. They are often killed in collisions and then feed more people.

The Montana Department of Transportation has processed 620 N. Emerson, Suite 301

A push to add roadkill to the menu in Montana

Los Angeles Times

Throwning a pair of burglars brought fame — as well as memories of his own troubled past

By MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE

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The Wenatchee World

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