

**Amendment - 2nd Reading/2nd House-tan - Requested by: Pat Flowers - (S) Committee of Whole**

- 2023

68th Legislature 2023

Drafter: Julie Johnson, 406-444-4024

HB0251.003.003

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 251  
2 INTRODUCED BY L. JONES, S. VINTON, M. REGIER, R. KNUDSEN, J. SMALL, S. FITZPATRICK, D.  
3 SALOMON, J. ELLSWORTH, K. BOGNER  
4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING STATE FINANCE LAWS; CREATING THE DEBT AND  
6 LIABILITY FREE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING FOR A TRANSFER AND ALLOCATIONS OF INTEREST INTO  
7 THE DEBT AND LIABILITY FREE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING A TRANSFER TO THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC  
8 SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM ACCOUNT; PROVIDING FOR A STATUTORY APPROPRIATION;  
9 PROVIDING FOR AN EQUAL TRANSFER OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS FROM THE DEBT AND LIABILITY  
10 FREE ACCOUNT TO THE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS LONG-RANGE BUILDING PROGRAM ACCOUNT  
11 AND THE GENERAL FUND IN 2027; ESTABLISHING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; AMENDING  
12 SECTIONS 17-6-202, 17-7-502, AND 44-4-1607, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE  
13 AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."  
14

15 WHEREAS, there is a benefit to the citizens of Montana to pay off debts and be debt free in 2023; and  
16 WHEREAS, paying off debts and other financial liabilities of the State of Montana is a responsible use  
17 of one-time funds; and

18 WHEREAS, issuing and paying off public debt when prudent is and should remain a standard function  
19 of state government; and

20 WHEREAS, paying off debt now allows more capacity to responsibly pay for capital expenditures via  
21 financing in the future, when desired by the Executive and Legislature.  
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:  
24

25 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Debt and liability free account -- rules for deposits and transfers --  
26 **purpose.** (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund established by 17-2-102 known as the debt  
27 and liability free account.

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1  
2 ~~COORDINATION SECTION. SECTION 8. COORDINATION INSTRUCTION. (1) IF [THIS ACT] IS PASSED AND~~  
3 ~~APPROVED AND DOES NOT CONTAIN A \$125 MILLION TRANSFER IN [SECTION 5(1)], AND IF ANY OF THE FIVE BILLS~~  
4 ~~IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) ARE NOT PASSED AND APPROVED, THEN THE TRANSFER AMOUNT IN [SECTION 5(1)] OF~~  
5 ~~[THIS ACT] IS \$62.5 MILLION.~~

- 6 ~~(2) THE FIVE BILLS ARE:~~  
7 ~~(A) HOUSE BILL NO. 192;~~  
8 ~~(B) HOUSE BILL NO. 212;~~  
9 ~~(C) HOUSE BILL NO. 221;~~  
10 ~~(D) HOUSE BILL NO. 222; AND~~  
11 ~~(E) HOUSE BILL NO. 267.~~

12  
13 **NEW SECTION. Section 8. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

14  
15 **NEW SECTION. Section 9. Retroactive applicability.** [This act] applies retroactively, within the  
16 meaning of 1-2-109, to funds collected pursuant to 17-6-202(2) on or after July 1, 2022.

17 - END -