

Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Kenneth Walsh - (H) Energy, Technology and Federal Relations

- 2023

68th Legislature 2023

Drafter: Trevor Graff, 406-444-4975

HB0961.001.001

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 961

2 INTRODUCED BY K. WALSH, C. POPE

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MONTANA ENERGY AND
5 INFRASTRUCTURE FUND; CREATING THE MONTANA ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
6 ADVISORY COMMISSION; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY;
7 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

8
9 WHEREAS, the Treasure State is proud of its economic legacy driven by the innovation, determination,
10 and hard work of its citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, the state government values and actively pursues its important role to act in the best
12 interests of its citizens in assisting the private sector and other stakeholders in identifying, planning, and
13 pursuing economic opportunities capable of improving the quality of life for Montana's citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, history demonstrates that economic success is enhanced by the known quality and
15 quantity of financial resources available to future development projects, and by the readily available financial
16 management tools to deliver those resources; and

17 WHEREAS, Montana anticipates an expanding list of significant future investment opportunities,
18 principal among them being in the economic sectors of energy and infrastructure development and renovation;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, a Montana energy and infrastructure fund would receive and distribute available public
21 funding to the benefit of energy and infrastructure projects developed in the public interest, provide for a liaison
22 with the private sector, including the state's banking community, in optimizing appropriate financing for
23 qualifying development projects, and focus and coordinate state resources, as needed, in the pursuit of those
24 projects.

25
26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

27

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1 (4) Appointed members of the commission shall be compensated and receive travel expenses as
2 provided for in 2-15-124 for each day in attendance at commission meetings or in the performance of any duty
3 or service as a commission member.

4 (5) The department of commerce shall staff the commission.

5 (6) Funding for the commission is allocated from the administrative costs allowed in [section 4].

6 (7) The commission shall set its future meeting dates.

7 (8) The commission shall elect a chair from the legislative branch and a vice chair from the
8 executive branch.

9
10 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Montana energy and infrastructure account.** (1) There is a Montana
11 energy and infrastructure account.

12 (2) All money in the account is allocated to the department of commerce to be used solely for the
13 purposes of [sections 1 through 4]. Interest earned on funds in the account must be deposited in the account.

14 (3) The funds allocated under this section may not be transferred or expended for any purpose
15 other than to provide funding for projects authorized pursuant to [sections 1 through 4] or for the administration
16 of the Montana energy and infrastructure fund advisory commission.

17
18 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Appropriation.** For the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, there is
19 appropriated ~~\$150,000~~\$15,000 from the general fund to the department of commerce for the implementation of
20 [sections 1 through 4].

21
22 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be
23 codified as an integral part of Title 90, and the provisions of Title 90 apply to [sections 1 through 4].

24
25 **NEW SECTION. Section 7. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

26
27 **NEW SECTION. Section 8. Termination.** [Sections 1 through 4] terminate June 30, 2033.