

Amendment - 2nd Reading/2nd House-tan - Requested by: Katie Sullivan - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2023

68th Legislature 2023

Drafter: Andria Hardin,

SB0462.001.001

1 (5) Developments supported by this part may not significantly diminish the quality of existing public
2 resources, such as land, air, fish, wildlife, and recreation opportunities.

3 (6) This renewable resource grant and loan program supports, in part, the implementation and
4 development of the comprehensive, coordinated, multiple-use water resources plan known as the "state water
5 plan". In making funding recommendations for grants and loans, the department shall give preference to
6 projects that will implement state water plan priorities if, in all other respects, the proposed projects are equal in
7 public benefit and technical feasibility.

8 (7) Irrigation makes Montana's lands more productive, healthy, and valuable for communities,
9 families, and the environment. In making funding recommendations for grants, the department shall prioritize
10 projects that plan, enhance, or develop agricultural irrigation and or source watershed projects. The department
11 shall rank these projects as a group.

12 ~~(7)~~(8) Source watersheds are an integral component of Montana's water resources. Source
13 watersheds that provide the majority of the state's drinking and irrigated agricultural water are particularly
14 important to maintaining the reliability, quantity, timing, and quality of Montana's environmental, drinking, and
15 agricultural water supply. Because source watersheds have a critical role in enhancing water supply reliability,
16 the maintenance and repair of source watersheds are eligible for the renewable resource grant and loan
17 program.

18 ~~(8)~~(9) Soil and range health play a vital role in protecting and sustaining Montana's renewable natural
19 resources by retaining water, soil, and nutrients in place on the landscape. Enhancing soil and range health will
20 provide long-term benefits to Montana's water and other renewable resources and to the users, wildlife, and
21 economies they support."

22

23 **Section 2.** Section 85-1-605, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"85-1-605. Grants, loans, and bonds for state, local, or tribal government assistance.** (1) The
25 Subject to subsection (7), the department may recommend to the legislature that grants and loans be made
26 from revenue deposited in the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-
27 302, that loans be made from renewable resource bond proceeds deposited in the renewable resource loan