

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 891
2 INTRODUCED BY J. CARLSON

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY TO PROVIDE ONE-TIME-ONLY
5 EMERGENCY STABILIZATION PAYMENTS TO NURSING HOMES IN FISCAL YEAR 2023; AND
6 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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8 WHEREAS, nursing homes care for frail, elderly Montanans who were disproportionately affected by
9 the COVID-19 pandemic; and

10 WHEREAS, nursing homes were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, losing
11 residents and staff and coping with unprecedented inflation, labor costs, and workforce challenges; and

12 WHEREAS, more than 60% of all nursing home residents rely on Medicaid to pay for their care; and

13 WHEREAS, nursing homes throughout the state have closed, leaving residents struggling to find a new
14 place to live and receive care and in many cases causing our most vulnerable seniors to move far from their
15 family, friends, and home community; and

16 WHEREAS, the State of Montana undertook a study of Medicaid rates, which confirmed that Medicaid
17 providers, including nursing homes, are seriously underpaid for their services; and

18 WHEREAS, Medicaid funding for nursing homes needs to increase to provide the resources needed as
19 identified in the study, to promote access to quality Medicaid-funded services, and to avoid additional nursing
20 home closures.

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

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24 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation for supplemental payments to nursing homes. (1)**

25 There is appropriated \$40,908,000 from the general fund to the department of public health and human
26 services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, to make one-time-only emergency stabilization payments as
27 soon as possible and no later than June 15, 2023, to nursing homes that provide services to medicaid
28 recipients.

