_____ BILL NO. _____

INTRODUCED BY _____
(Primary Sponsor)

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE TRAILS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM; ESTABLISHING THE TRAIL STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM; SPECIFYING APPORTIONMENT OF GRANT FUNDING; EXPANDING PROJECTS AVAILABLE TO RECEIVE FUNDING; ALLOWING FOR ADVANCE PAYMENT OF GRANT FUNDING; AMENDING SECTION 23-2-109, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 23-2-109, MCA, is amended to read:

"**23-2-109. Trails and recreational facilities grant program -- rulemaking.** (1) There is a trails and recreational facilities grant program administered by the department. The grant is called the trail stewardship grant program.

(2) Cities, counties, tribal governments, school districts, recreational clubs and organizations, and state and federal agencies are eligible to receive grant funds for the following projects:

(a) new trail and shared-use path construction;

(b) rehabilitation and maintenance of existing trails and shared-use paths; ~~and~~

(c) trailside and trailhead facilities, including but not limited to bridges, fencing, parking, bathrooms, latrines, picnic shelters, interpretation, trail signs, and trailside weed management~~.~~ ;

(d) trail-related projects, economic impact studies, and feasibility and planning studies, including safety and ethics education;

(e) trail data and conditions collection for safety and planning; and

(f) equipment purchases and maintenance.

(3) (a) The department shall award the following percentages of available trail stewardship grant program funds:

(i) 40% to motorized projects;

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(ii) 40% to nonmotorized projects; and

(iii) 20% to projects that serve both motorized and nonmotorized uses.

(b) The balance of unused funds for an apportionment in subsection (3)(a) may be used to fund projects for another apportionment in subsection (3)(a).

(c) An advance of up to 50% may be requested and provided at the time the grant is awarded for the purchase of needed supplies, a further 40% when the first advance is spent and reported, and the final 10% when the project is completed.

~~(3)~~ (4) In making grants, the department shall consider the recommendations of the state trails advisory committee established pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 206.

~~(4)~~ (5) Entities receiving a grant may use up to 7% of the funds for administrative costs.

~~(5)~~ (6) Any funds awarded pursuant to this section that are not fully expended within 3 years must revert to the department and be deposited in the account established in 23-1-105.

~~(6)~~ (7) The department may adopt rules to implement this section."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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