

HOUSE BILL NO. 863

INTRODUCED BY L. JONES, J. ESP, C. GLIMM, D. BEDEY, B. MERCER, E. TILLEMAN, K. WALSH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING STATE FINANCE LAWS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 17-7-102, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 17-7-102, MCA, is amended to read:

**"17-7-102. (Temporary) Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Additional services" means different services or more of the same services.

(2) "Agency" means all offices, departments, boards, commissions, institutions, universities, colleges, and any other person or any other administrative unit of state government that spends or encumbers public money by virtue of an appropriation from the legislature under 17-8-101.

(3) "Approving authority" means:

(a) the governor or the governor's designated representative for executive branch agencies;

(b) the chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designated representative for judicial branch agencies;

(c) the speaker for the house of representatives;

(d) the president for the senate;

(e) appropriate legislative committees or a designated representative for legislative branch agencies; or

(f) the board of regents of higher education or its designated representative for the university system.

(4) (a) "Base budget" means the resources for the operation of state government that are of an ongoing and nonextraordinary nature in the current biennium. The base budget for the state general fund and state special revenue funds may not exceed that level of funding authorized by the previous legislature.

(b) The term does not include:

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2        NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation. (1) There is appropriated \$6.55 million from the general  
3 fund to the office of the state public defender for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, for payment of contracted  
4 services.

5        (2)        The legislature intends that the appropriation in this section be considered part of the ongoing  
6 base for the next legislative session.

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8        NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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