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HOUSE BILL NO. 863

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

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING STATE FINANCE LAWS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING FOR TIMELY TRANSFER OF LEGISLATIVE SPACE; 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.

1 the present law base is to be determined by the existence of constitutional or statutory requirements for the
2 proposed expenditure. Any proposed increase or decrease that is not based on those requirements is
3 considered a new proposal.

4 (12) "Operating reserve" means an amount equal to 8.3% of all general revenue appropriations in
5 the second year of the biennium.

6 (13) "Present law base" means that level of funding needed under present law to maintain
7 operations and services at the level authorized by the previous legislature, including but not limited to:

8 (a) changes resulting from legally mandated workload, caseload, or enrollment increases or
9 decreases;

10 (b) changes in funding requirements resulting from constitutional or statutory schedules or
11 formulas;

12 (c) inflationary or deflationary adjustments; and

13 (d) elimination of nonrecurring appropriations.

14 (14) "Program" means a principal organizational or budgetary unit within an agency.

15 (15) "Requesting agency" means the agency of state government that has requested a specific
16 budget amendment.

17 (16) "University system unit" means the board of regents of higher education; office of the
18 commissioner of higher education; university of Montana, with campuses at Missoula, Butte, Dillon, and
19 Helena; Montana state university, with campuses at Bozeman, Billings, Havre, and Great Falls; the agricultural
20 experiment station, with central offices at Bozeman; the forest and conservation experiment station, with central
21 offices at Missoula; the cooperative extension service, with central offices at Bozeman; the bureau of mines and
22 geology, with central offices at Butte; the fire services training school at Great Falls; and the community
23 colleges supervised and coordinated by the board of regents pursuant to 20-15-103."

24

25 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Legislative space.** On or before June 30, 2025, the legislative audit
26 division shall move out of the capitol into renovated space in the Mitchell building located at 125 north Roberts
27 street, Helena, Montana, as approved by the legislative council pursuant to 2-17-805(6).

28

Amendment - 1st Reading/2nd House-blue - Requested by: (S) Finance and Claims

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Julie Johnson,

HB0863.001.006

1 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation. (1) There is appropriated \$100,000 from the Montana-
2 Ireland trade and development special revenue account to the department of commerce for the biennium
3 beginning July 1, 2025, for implementing the provisions of Senate Bill No. 320.

4 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that the appropriation be included in the base budget for the
5 department of commerce for the biennium beginning July 1, 2027.

6

7 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective ~~July 1, 2025~~ June 30, 2025.

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- END -