

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 251  
2 INTRODUCED BY L. JONES, S. VINTON, M. REGIER, R. KNUDSEN, J. SMALL, S. FITZPATRICK, D.  
3 SALOMON, J. ELLSWORTH, K. BOGNER  
4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING STATE FINANCE LAWS; CREATING THE DEBT AND  
6 LIABILITY FREE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING FOR A TRANSFER AND ALLOCATIONS OF INTEREST INTO  
7 THE DEBT AND LIABILITY FREE ACCOUNT; ~~PROVIDING A TRANSFER TO THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC~~  
8 ~~SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM ACCOUNT~~; PROVIDING FOR A STATUTORY APPROPRIATION;  
9 PROVIDING FOR AN EQUAL TRANSFER OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS FROM THE DEBT AND LIABILITY  
10 FREE ACCOUNT TO THE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS LONG-RANGE BUILDING PROGRAM ACCOUNT  
11 AND THE GENERAL FUND IN 2027; AMENDING SECTIONS 17-6-202, AND 17-7-502, ~~AND 44-4-1607~~,  
12 MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

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14 WHEREAS, there is a benefit to the citizens of Montana to pay off debts and be debt free in 2023; and  
15 WHEREAS, paying off debts and other financial liabilities of the State of Montana is a responsible use  
16 of one-time funds; and

17 WHEREAS, issuing and paying off public debt when prudent is and should remain a standard function  
18 of state government; and

19 WHEREAS, paying off debt now allows more capacity to responsibly pay for capital expenditures via  
20 financing in the future, when desired by the Executive and Legislature.

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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:  
23

24 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Debt and liability free account -- rules for deposits and transfers --  
25 **purpose.** (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund established by 17-2-102 known as the debt  
26 and liability free account.

27 (2) The purpose of the debt and liability free account is to:

28 (a) pay the principal, interest, premiums, and any costs or fees associated with redeeming

1 inclusion of 30-10-1004 terminates June 30, 2027; pursuant to sec. 5, Ch. 548, L. 2021, the inclusion of 50-1-  
2 115 terminates June 30, 2025; pursuant to secs. 5 and 12, Ch. 563, L. 2021, the inclusion of 22-3-1004 is  
3 effective July 1, 2027; and pursuant to sec. 15, Ch. 574, L. 2021, the inclusion of 46-32-108 terminates June  
4 30, 2023.)"

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6 **Section 4.** Section 44-4-1607, MCA, is amended to read:

7 ~~"44-4-1607.—Statewide public safety communications system account. (1) There is an account in~~  
8 ~~the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102 to be known as the statewide public safety~~  
9 ~~communications system account.~~

10 ~~(2) — There must be deposited in the account:~~

11 ~~(a) — money received from legislative allocations and general fund transfers;~~

12 ~~(b) — a transfer of money from a state or local agency for the purposes of this part;~~

13 ~~(c) — rates, charges, or fees collected by the department in accordance with 44-4-1606(3)(h);~~

14 ~~(d) — funds accepted in accordance with 44-4-1606(3)(i) and (3)(j); and~~

15 ~~(e) — a gift, donation, grant, legacy, bequest, or devise made for the purposes of this part.~~

16 ~~(3) — There is an account in the federal special revenue fund established in 17-2-102 to be known as~~  
17 ~~the statewide public safety communications system account. There must be deposited in the account money~~  
18 ~~received from the federal government for the purposes of this part.~~

19 ~~(4) — For each fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2029, 2023, there is~~  
20 ~~transferred \$3.75 million from the state general fund to the state special revenue account provided for in this~~  
21 ~~section.~~

22 ~~(5) — Funds in either account created in this section must be used by the department for the~~  
23 ~~purposes of this part."~~

24

25 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Transfer of funds.** (1) By June 30, 2023, the state treasurer shall  
26 transfer \$150 million from the general fund to the account provided for in [section 1].

27 ~~(2) — By June 30, 2023, the state treasurer shall transfer \$35 million from the general fund to the~~  
28 ~~statewide public safety communications system account provided for in 44-4-1607.~~

