

HOUSE BILL NO. 574

INTRODUCED BY K. ABBOTT, T. RUNNING WOLF, A. BUCKLEY, K. SULLIVAN, S. WEBBER, S. O'BRIEN,
P. FLOWERS, E. MCCLAFFERTY, D. HARVEY, L. SMITH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE MONTANA WORKFORCE HOUSING TRUST
FUND; PROVIDING LOAN AND GRANT REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY;
PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING FOR A TRANSFER OF FUNDS; PROVIDING A
DEFINITION; AND AMENDING SECTION 90-6-136, MCA."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Montana workforce housing trust fund. (1) There is a Montana

workforce housing trust fund in the housing authority enterprise fund provided for in 90-6-107. The money in the
fund must be used to provide loans and grants for the development and preservation of rental housing and
homes for purchase intended for the Montana workforce at affordable housing rates.

(2) (a) Half of the principal in the fund must be reserved and invested to earn interest. The
remaining principal must be used to provide loans and grants to eligible applicants as provided for in this
section.

(b) After the remaining principal is loaned or granted to eligible applicants as provided in
subsection (2)(a), the amount of loans and grants made in a fiscal year is contingent on the repayment of loan
principal and on the amount of interest income generated by the principal of the fund reserved pursuant to
subsection (2)(a).

(3) (a) Money from the fund must be used for the purposes identified in 90-6-134(3) and (4) and
this section.

(b) Loans and grants made pursuant to this section must meet the following requirements:

(i) Projects funded with the loans or grants must be leased or sold at affordable housing rates.

(ii) The maximum interest rate charged on a loan pursuant to this section may not be greater than
the interest rate charged on loans for other types of housing projects administered by the board pursuant to this

1 part.

2 (iii) If the loan recipient is a for-profit housing developer, the loan recipient shall pay loan servicing
3 fees.

4 (iv) Projects funded with the loans or grants must be subject to property taxes unless the project is
5 exempt from property tax collection pursuant to Title 15, chapter 6.

6 (4) Eligible projects may include the initial construction or the preservation and reconstruction of
7 developments that provide rental housing at affordable housing rates or projects that provide housing for buyers
8 to purchase and own at affordable housing rates.

9 (5) (a) Organizations eligible for loans from the fund are state government or state agencies or
10 programs, local governments, tribal governments, local housing authorities, nonprofit community-based or
11 neighborhood-based organizations, regional or statewide nonprofit housing assistance organizations, or for-
12 profit housing developers.

13 (b) Organizations eligible for grants from the fund are local governments, local housing authorities,
14 nonprofit community-based or neighborhood-based organizations, or regional or statewide nonprofit housing
15 assistance organizations.

16 (6) The costs incurred by the board in administering the fund may be paid from the fund.

17 (7) Interest and principal on loans from the fund must be repaid to the fund.

18 (8) Interest income generated by investment of the principal of the fund is retained in the fund.

19 (9) For the purposes of this section, "affordable housing rates" means:

20 (a) a rental rate that costs less than 25% of a household's monthly income for a household with an
21 annual income at or below 80% of the median income in the area, as determined by the United States
22 department of housing and urban development; and

23 (b) the price of housing sold for which the mortgage payment, including any mortgage insurance
24 and escrow costs, is substantially similar to the ratio of total fixed payments to effective income as determined
25 by the United States department of housing and urban development.

26

27 **Section 2.** Section 90-6-136, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"90-6-136. Administrative rules.** The board shall adopt rules to implement 90-6-131 through 90-6-

1 137 and [section 1]. The rules must address:

- 2 (1) the development of eligibility criteria for applicants;
- 3 (2) the development of an application process for requesting financial assistance;
- 4 (3) the establishment of a procedure for disbursing financial assistance;
- 5 (4) the establishment of the terms and conditions of a loan, including the method and schedule of
- 6 repayment and the applicable rate of interest;
- 7 (5) the development of a process for awarding technical assistance contracts; and
- 8 (6) other matters necessary for the administration of 90-6-131 through 90-6-137and [section 1]."

9

10 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Transfer of funds.** By August 1, 2023, the state treasurer shall transfer

11 \$500 million from the general fund to the Montana workforce housing trust fund created in [section 1].

12

13 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$500 million from the Montana

14 workforce housing trust fund created in [section 1] to the board of housing for the biennium beginning July 1,

15 2023.

16 (2) The appropriation must be used to provide loans and grants to construct and secure affordable

17 housing for Montana's workforce.

18

19 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an

20 integral part of Title 90, chapter 6, part 1, and the provisions of Title 90, chapter 6, part 1, apply to [section 1].

21 - END -