

HOUSE BILL NO. 357

INTRODUCED BY HARRIS

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER TO ESTABLISH A COUNTY COURTHOUSE RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM; ~~AND~~ REQUIRING THE OFFICER TO ASSIST COUNTIES, AS REQUESTED, IN DETERMINING THE NEED FOR AND COST OF RESTORING OR REHABILITATING THEIR COURTHOUSES AND IN OBTAINING GRANTS AND LOANS; AND REQUIRING THE OFFICER TO CONTRACT WITH A HISTORICAL ARCHITECT."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Restoration and rehabilitation of county courthouses.** (1) The historic preservation officer shall implement a county courthouse restoration and rehabilitation program. At the request of a board of county commissioners, the historic preservation officer shall, in consultation with the appropriate county officials:

- (~~1~~)(A) evaluate the current condition of the county courthouse and determine whether restoration or rehabilitation is necessary or warranted;
- (~~2~~)(B) estimate costs that may be associated with the restoration or rehabilitation activities;
- (~~3~~)(C) provide technical assistance to the counties as requested; and
- (~~4~~)(D) provide assistance to the counties in obtaining government and private sector grants and loans to assist counties in paying for courthouse restoration or rehabilitation projects.

(2) THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SHALL CONTRACT WITH A HISTORICAL ARCHITECT TO ASSIST COUNTIES IN RESTORING AND REHABILITATING COUNTY COURTHOUSES. THE CONTRACT MAY NOT EXCEED \$72,000.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 22, chapter 3, part 4, and the provisions of Title 22, chapter 3, part 4, apply to [section 1].

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