

Amendments to House Bill No. 2
3rd Reading Copy

Requested by

For the Senate Finance and Claims Committee

Prepared by PAT GERVAIS
March 29, 2005 (5:03pm)

1. Page B-1, line 8.

Following: "Ombudsman"**Insert:** "Services"

2. Page B-7, line 5.

Following: "Ombudsman"**Insert:** "Services"

3. Page B-8, line 2.

Following: "Ombudsman"**Insert:** "Services"

4. Page B-8, line 7.

Following: "programs."**Strike:** remainder of line 7

5. Page B-8, line 8.

Following: "may"**Strike:** "not"

6. Page B-8, line 9.

Strike: "energy share of Montana."**Insert:** "the state low-income energy assistance program, the
state weatherization program, or tribal energy assistance
programs."

7. Page B-8, line 10.

Strike: "It"

Insert: "Funding in TANF Cash Assistance Increase Benefit Level and TANF Reduce CC Transfer, Fund Cash Assistance may be used only to increase the monthly cash assistance benefit provided to TANF cash assistance recipients, and it"

8. Page B-8, line 17.

Strike: "on July 1"

Insert: "at fiscal yearend"

9. Page B-8, line 19 through line 24.

Strike: line 19 through line 24 in their entirety

10. Page B-11, line 4.

Strike: on July 1

Insert: "at fiscal yearend"

11. Page B-11, line 8.

Following: "schedule"

Strike: "over a 4-year period"

12. Page B-11, line 13.

Following: "months"

Strike: "beginning July 1, 2005"

Insert: ", on December 31 and June 30"

Explanation - This amendment proposes changing and or striking language included in HB 2 due to concerns raised by legislative legal counsel in legal review of HB 2 dated March 16, 2005 that was prepared for the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

Item 1, 2 and 3 clarify that item titled Energy Ombudsman is not a specific position and instead is Energy Ombudsman Services.

Item 4 strikes language encouraging utility companies to increase the universal system benefit (USB) to increase the funding available for energy assistance. USB is established in statute

this language may be substantive in nature and thus not appropriate for inclusion in HB 2.

Item 5 and 6 changes wording regarding the use of funding appropriated for low income energy assistance and specifies this funding may be used to support the state low-income energy assistance programs, the state weatherization program, or tribal energy assistance programs rather than specifying that the funding may not be used for a specific non-profit corporation by name, which is inappropriate for inclusion in HB 2.

Item 7 attempts to clarify restrictions applying to the use of funds included in two TANF related line items and what the legislature estimates the funding may be adequate to support.

Item 8, 10, and 12 clarifies dates for specific actions to occur.

Item 9 strikes language that based upon legal review is not a condition of an appropriation and not appropriate for inclusion in HB 2. The legislature may wish to direct staff to include this language in the Fiscal Report as statements of legislative intent.

Item 11 clarifies language so that the provisions of HB 2 do not extend beyond 2 years which is the time period that HB 2 is effective.

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