

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DATE 3.2.05

BILL NO. HB 27

**Testimony on HB27
Senate State Administration Committee
March 2, 2005**

Testimony presented by
Arnold Olsen, Director
Montana Historical Society

The Montana Historical Society supports HB27 which loosens the auditing requirements for the Moss Mansion from quarterly to a biennial review. The cost of sending two or three staff members to Billings for several days four times per year is prohibitive given recent budgets. There are only four staff in the Society's entire business office, so the impacts of these quarterly audits to other required functions would be significant. Putting the Moss Mansion through four audits per year is onerous for them as well. The fact that no state funds are provided to operate or maintain the Moss Mansion also seems to indicate less frequency would be reasonable. We believe the biennial review would protect the state's two-thirds interest in the property and artifacts while minimizing expenditures. This bill is supported by the leadership of the Moss Mansion Preservation organization, and I have discussed it with them. Therefore, I urge you to positively consider this bill.