

HOUSE BILL NO. 531

INTRODUCED BY FRANKLIN, DICKENSON, SCHMIDT, CALLAHAN, MANGAN, TROPILA, GILLAN,
MCKENNEY, GALVIN-HALCRO, GOLIE, WILSON, WITT, COBB, KITZENBERG, BLACK, RYAN, MILBURN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT TO BE USED FOR A GRANT TO THE MCLAUGHLIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE
PURPOSE OF EXPANSION OF THE INSTITUTE; REQUIRING MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE GRANT; AND
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, McLaughlin Research Institute has demonstrated significant economic growth in Montana
for the past 12 years, and the majority of the Institute's funding comes from outside the state and is used for
salaries, benefits, equipment, and services in Montana; and

WHEREAS, expansion of the Institute is necessary to keep the current research projects competitive
for federal and private funding and to allow the recruitment of additional scientists; and

WHEREAS, scientists at the Institute currently use the mouse model to conduct research associated
with Alzheimer's disease, hearing loss, deafness, blindness, peripheral neuropathy, and prion diseases (chronic
wasting disease, mad cow disease, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease); and

WHEREAS, all of these research projects aim at improving health care for all Montanans, and
additionally, the Institute's prion research focuses on helping to develop a diagnostic blood test for mad cow
disease and chronic wasting disease that will identify infected animals prior to their developing symptoms and
aid Montana's livestock industry and hunting heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Institute's education effort is a summer student and teacher research education program
that serves high school and college students throughout Montana and high school teachers from north central
Montana and provides these individuals with the unique opportunity to work in a basic research laboratory, and
over 80% of the Institute's students have gone on to careers in research or medicine; and

WHEREAS, the funding in this bill will enable the Institute to hire principal investigators, laboratory
technicians, and mouse handlers, thereby providing training for approximately 20 different jobs at varying skill
levels.

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

