

HOUSE BILL NO. 222

INTRODUCED BY L. JONES, BLACK

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
5 RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION TO CONTRACT WITH AN ENTITY TO CONDUCT AN ECONOMIC
6 ANALYSIS OF THE VALUE OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN MONTANA; REQUIRING A REPORT;
7 PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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9 WHEREAS, many rural areas in Montana are continuing to experience loss of population and are losing
10 their stable economic base; and

11 WHEREAS, Montana is a headwaters state, has reserved water rights for irrigation purposes on the main
12 stem of the Missouri River and the Yellowstone River, and has identified thousands of acres of irrigable land in
13 those drainages; and

14 WHEREAS, the development of irrigation projects could create rural and urban economic development
15 in terms of providing opportunities to produce high-value crops and to develop value-added businesses; and

16 WHEREAS, currently available water and irrigable land resources need to be put to beneficial use in the
17 near future so that the State of Montana and its people can forever benefit from the development of these
18 valuable natural resources.

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

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22 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation -- REPORT. (1) There is appropriated from the general fund
23 to the department of natural resources and conservation \$200,000 ONLY for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007,
24 AND ONLY for the purpose of contracting with an entity to conduct an economic analysis of the value of irrigated
25 agriculture to Montana's economy. The economic analysis must include but is not limited to the identification of
26 economic benefits, who benefits and to what extent from existing irrigation, the economic impact of the
27 development of new irrigation projects, and the rehabilitation of older irrigation projects in Montana.

28 (2) THE PURCHASE OF CONTRACTED SERVICES FROM THE APPROPRIATION IN THIS SECTION MUST CONFORM TO
29 THE STATE PROCUREMENT LAW IN TITLE 18, CHAPTER 4.

30 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A WRITTEN REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS TO THE LEGISLATIVE

1 FINANCE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1, 2008.

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3 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2007.

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