

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS
5 TO BE USED FOR GRANTS FOR PUBLIC FORUMS ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN; AUTHORIZING THE
6 BOARD OF REGENTS TO CONTRACT FOR THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC FORUMS AND THE
7 ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation -- use.** (1) There is appropriated \$500,000 from the state
12 general fund to the board of regents to provide grants for public forums on issues of public concern. The board
13 of regents may contract with private nonprofit organizations and entities for the conduct of public forums and the
14 administration of the grants.

15 (2) The board of regents may accept applications for grants or may contract with an entity as provided
16 in subsection (1). The public forum grants authorized in subsection (1) must include equal matching funds from
17 a grant recipient and are intended to encourage civic and deliberative discourse on issues confronting Montana.
18 Issues include but are not limited to the environment, the preservation of wildlife and sporting opportunities,
19 renewable energy, economic development, education, taxation, cultural and ethnic identities and relations,
20 democratic values, civic education and skills, international issues, and religion.

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

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