

HOUSE BILL NO. 66

INTRODUCED BY D. SANDS

BY REQUEST OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE USE OF THE CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN FUNDING SERVICES FOR HIGH-RISK CHILDREN WHO NEED MENTAL HEALTH AND OTHER STATE AGENCY SERVICES; PROVIDING A FUND TRANSFER; AMENDING SECTION 52-2-309, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature in 2007 established a system of care special revenue account to pay for specialized services to high-risk children who need mental health and other services from state agencies; and

WHEREAS, the system of care account authorized in section 52-2-309, MCA, has paid for services that have allowed a number of children to be treated in their communities rather than in another community or state; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Mental Health Study commissioned by the 2007 Legislature recommended that additional funding be authorized for the system of care account to give the state more flexibility in meeting the needs of high-risk children and their families in ways that build on their strengths and allow them to remain in their communities or in Montana.

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

**Section 1.** Section 52-2-309, MCA, is amended to read:

**"52-2-309. Children's system of care account.** (1) There is a children's system of care account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department. The fund must be used for the purpose of administering and delivering services to high-risk children with multiagency service needs and to provide for the children's care, protection, and mental, social, and physical development.

(2) The children's system of care account must consist of funds:

(a) transferred, to the extent possible within existing resources, by the agencies named in 52-2-303 from their agency appropriation;



1 (b) designated by the legislature; or

2 (c) received for the account from any other source.

3 (3) The department shall use funds from the children's system of care account to reimburse in-state or  
4 community-based providers of services for services that;

5 (a) allow high-risk children with multiagency service needs to be placed or to remain in the least restrictive  
6 and most appropriate setting, to the extent that the services are not eligible for reimbursement from another  
7 source; or

8 (b) meet the mental health or social and emotional development needs of children and their families  
9 when the children have an identified mental health need. Priority for services provided under this subsection (3)(b)  
10 must be given to children under the age of 6."

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Fund transfer.** There is transferred \$250,000 from the general fund to the  
13 system of care account provided for in 52-2-309 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009.

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15 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2009.

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