

HOUSE BILL NO. 212

INTRODUCED BY D. BARRETT

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE;  
AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, increased housing, fuel, and food costs have made it more difficult for low-income  
Montanans to feed their families; and

WHEREAS, Montana's emergency food assistance programs have seen first-hand the effect of these  
increasing costs, documenting nearly 698,700 client visits in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the number of client visits includes repeat visits, with an average of 7.87 repeat visits in  
2007; and

WHEREAS, the number of repeat visits to food banks, soup kitchens, rescue missions, and other  
providers reflects a chronic need in the emergency food system.

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated from the general fund to the  
department of public health and human services \$500,000 a year in each year of the biennium beginning July  
1, 2009, to obtain and distribute food to Montanans and to strengthen the emergency food program by contracting  
with emergency food assistance programs that have experience distributing food on a statewide basis. The funds  
must be used as follows:

- (a) \$75,000 in each year of the biennium to transport food to Montana communities;
  - (b) \$350,000 in each year of the biennium to purchase additional food for the emergency food system.  
Of this amount, \$25,000 must be used each year to buy or process Montana food products.
  - (c) \$25,000 in each year of the biennium to work with private, state, and community organizations to  
develop local programs to improve the availability and use of food programs and other sustainable efforts  
designed to reduce hunger in Montana; and
  - (d) \$50,000 in each year of the biennium for the administrative costs of any successful contractor.
- (2) The department may not use the appropriation to cover any of the department's administrative costs.

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2           NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2009.

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