

HOUSE BILL NO. 229

INTRODUCED BY G. MACLAREN

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC ST. MARY'S MISSION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, on September 24, 1841, Father Pierre Jean De Smet established the first permanent settlement in what was to become Montana at St. Mary's Mission in the Bitterroot; and

WHEREAS, the goal of St. Mary's Mission, Inc., is to provide and to promote a cross-cultural, transgenerational, educational experience, to strengthen ties with Indian culture, and to improve the local economy through tourism; and

WHEREAS, the mission complex includes St. Mary's Chapel, Chief Victor's cabin, and Father Ravalli's cabin and pharmacy, all of which require ongoing preservation and restoration; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary's Mission is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and The Ideals Guide to Historic Places of Worship in the United States; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary's Mission, Inc., is an independent, nonprofit corporation that operates at a deficit.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation. (1) The amounts of \$20,000 in fiscal year 2010 and \$20,000 in fiscal year 2011 are appropriated from the general fund to the department of commerce to be awarded to Historic St. Mary's Mission, Inc., to be used for direct maintenance and restoration of the St. Mary's mission and its grounds.

(2) If it is determined by the personnel or officers of Historic St. Mary's Mission, Inc., that the funds provided for in this section are no longer needed, the funds must be returned to the general fund.

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

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