

1 SENATE BILL NO. 486

2 INTRODUCED BY T. BROWN

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING MUNICIPALITIES TO USE REVENUE FROM PUBLIC
5 SAFETY MILL LEVIES FOR THE PURPOSE STATED BY THE MUNICIPALITY; PROVIDING A PROCESS FOR
6 A PETITION TO BE SUBMITTED FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND HEARING IF LEVY REVENUE IS NOT BEING
7 USED AS STATED."

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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. Municipal levy for public safety -- revenue to be used as stated --**
12 **petition for independent investigation and hearing.** (1) Revenue raised from a municipal mill levy imposed
13 for public safety purposes must be used for the purposes stated in the resolution, charter, amendment, or petition
14 indicating an intent to impose the levy and included on the ballot pursuant to 15-10-425.

15 (2) (a) Residents of the municipality may petition for an independent investigation and hearing if the
16 required number of residents attest, through the petition process provided in subsection (2)(b), that they believe
17 that the revenue is not being used for the stated purposes.

18 (b) The petition must be signed by at least 5% or at least 100 residents of the municipality, whichever
19 is less, and must be submitted to the municipal clerk. The petition must be accompanied by a copy of the
20 resolution, charter, amendment, or petition indicating an intent to impose the levy and evidence that the
21 municipality is using the money in a manner that is inconsistent with the stated purpose.

22 (3) Within 60 days of receipt of a petition that meets the requirements of subsection (2)(b), the municipal
23 governing body shall cause to be conducted an independent third-party investigation of the use of the revenue
24 to determine whether the use of the revenue was inconsistent with the stated purpose of the levy.

25 (4) Within 30 days of completion of the investigation, the municipal governing body shall hold a hearing
26 during which the findings of the investigation must be disclosed. Notice of the hearing must be provided as
27 required under 7-1-4127.

28 (5) If the conclusion of the investigation is that the levy revenue was not used for the intended purpose,
29 the municipal governing body shall, at its next regular meeting after the hearing, announce how it intends to
30 properly direct the revenue and meet the requirements of subsection (1).

