SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. 1

Date 3/19/09

Bill No. HB 127

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
INFORMATION SHEET

HB 127

AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 10-1-108 and 17-7-502 MCA.

INTENT

HB 127 amends section 10-1-108 (Armories) and 17-7-502 (Statutory appropriations – definition – requisites of validity), MCA, and creates a state special revenue account for the Department of Military Affairs. HB 127 allows for the Department to use this state special revenue account to purchase land for the Montana National Guard from the proceeds of the sale of existing armories in locations where new armories ("Readiness Centers") are proposed or in locations where armories are closed.

CONCLUSION

When the State Legislature authorizes construction of a new facility that the Federal Government (National Guard Bureau) agrees to fund, either in part or in entirety, the State of Montana is required to provide the land. The unavailability of cash to purchase land for a replacement facility caused by current processes has posed problems for the Department. When there is a delay in having available cash because we are waiting for the sale of an existing facility, we are often unable to purchase land in a suitable timeframe. Not having the land delays construction and has caused us to have to lease the property we sold back from the purchaser at a high rate in order to maintain a facility for troops until the new facility could be completed. HB 127 will aide the Department in timely purchase of land for construction of new facilities approved by the legislature in addition to placing the State of Montana, through the Department of Military Affairs, in a more favorable position to receive Federal funding for the construction of new Readiness Centers.

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