EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1/26/2011
HB

AN ACT REVISING SCHOOL FINANCE LAWS BY ALLOWING BONDING CAPACITIES TO BE COMBINED IN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH AN ATTACHED ELEMENTARY DISTRICT; ELIMINATING TRANSITION COSTS FROM THE CALCULATION OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE DISTRICT BUILDING RESERVE FUND; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 20-9-406 AND 20-9-502, MCA.

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

Section 1. Section 20-9-406, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-9-406. Limitations on amount of bond issue -- definition of federal impact aid basic support payment. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection ~~(1)(d)~~ (1)(c), the maximum amount for which an elementary district or a high school district may become indebted by the issuance of general obligation bonds, including all indebtedness represented by outstanding general obligation bonds of previous issues, registered warrants, outstanding obligations under 20-9-471 ~~and 20-9-502~~, and any other loans or notes payable that are held as general obligations of the district, is 50% of the taxable value of the property subject to taxation, as ascertained by the last assessment for state, county, and school taxes previous to the incurring of the indebtedness.

(b) Except as provided in subsection ~~(1)(d)~~ (1)(c), the maximum amount for which a K-12 school district, as formed pursuant to 20-6-701, may become indebted by the issuance of general obligation bonds, including all indebtedness represented by outstanding general obligation bonds of previous issues, registered warrants, outstanding obligations under 20-9-471 and 20-9-502, and any other loans or notes payable that are held as general obligations of the district, is up to 100% of the taxable value of the property subject to taxation, as ascertained by the last assessment for state, county, and school taxes previous to the incurring of the indebtedness.

~~(c) The total indebtedness of the high school district with an attached elementary district is limited to the sum of 50% of the taxable value of the property for elementary school program purposes and 50% of the taxable value of the property for high school program purposes.~~

~~(d)~~(c) (i) The maximum amount for which an elementary district or a high school district with a district

mill value per elementary ANB or per high school ANB that is less than the facility guaranteed mill value per elementary ANB or high school ANB under 20-9-366 may become indebted by the issuance of general obligation bonds, including all indebtedness represented by outstanding general obligation bonds of previous issues, registered warrants, outstanding obligations under 20-9-471 and 20-9-502, and any other loans or notes payable that are held as general obligations of the district, is 50% of the corresponding facility guaranteed mill value per ANB times 1,000 times the ANB of the district. For a K-12 district, the maximum amount for which the district may become indebted is 50% of the sum of the facility guaranteed mill value per elementary ANB times 1,000 times the elementary ANB of the district and the facility guaranteed mill value per high school ANB times 1,000 times the high school ANB of the district. For the purpose of calculating ANB under this subsection, a district may use the greater of the current year ANB or the 3-year ANB calculated under 20-9-311.

(ii) If mutually agreed upon by the affected districts, for the purpose of calculating its maximum bonded indebtedness under this subsection ~~(1)(d)~~ (1)(c), a district may include the ANB of the district plus the number of students residing within the district for which the district or county pays tuition for attendance at a school in an adjacent district. The receiving district may not use out-of-district ANB for the purpose of calculating its maximum indebtedness if the out-of-district ANB has been included in the ANB of the sending district pursuant to the mutual agreement. For the purpose of calculating ANB under this subsection, a district may use the greater of the current year ANB or the 3-year ANB calculated under 20-9-311.

(2) The maximum amounts determined in subsection (1) do not pertain to indebtedness imposed by special improvement district obligations or assessments against the school district or to general obligation bonds issued for the repayment of tax protests lost by the district. All general obligation bonds issued in excess of the amount are void, except as provided in this section.

(3) The maximum amount of impact aid revenue bonds that an elementary district, high school district, or K-12 school district may issue may not exceed a total aggregate amount equal to three times the average of the school district's annual federal impact aid basic support payments for the 5 years immediately preceding the issuance of the bonds. However, at the time of issuance of the bonds, the average annual payment of principal and interest on the impact aid bonds each year may not exceed 35% of the total federal impact aid basic support payments of the school district for the current year.

(4) When the total indebtedness of a school district has reached the limitations prescribed in this section, the school district may pay all reasonable and necessary expenses of the school district on a cash basis in

accordance with the financial administration provisions of this chapter.

(5) Whenever bonds are issued for the purpose of refunding bonds, any money to the credit of the debt service fund for the payment of the bonds to be refunded is applied toward the payment of the bonds and the refunding bond issue is decreased accordingly.

(6) As used in this part, "federal impact aid basic support payment" means the annual impact aid revenue received by a district under 20 U.S.C. 7703(b) but excludes revenue received for impact aid special education under 20 U.S.C. 7703(d) and impact aid construction under 20 U.S.C. 7707."

Section 2. Section 20-9-502, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-9-502. Purpose and authorization of building reserve fund by election -- levy for school transition costs. (1) The trustees of any district, with the approval of the qualified electors of the district, may establish a building reserve for the purpose of raising money for the future construction, equipping, or enlarging of school buildings, for the purpose of purchasing land needed for school purposes in the district, or for the purpose of funding school transition costs as provided in subsections (5) and (6). In order to submit to the qualified electors of the district a building reserve proposition for the establishment of or addition to a building reserve, the trustees shall pass a resolution that specifies:

(a) the purpose or purposes for which the new or addition to the building reserve will be used;

(b) the duration of time over which the new or addition to the building reserve will be raised in annual, equal installments;

(c) the total amount of money that will be raised during the duration of time specified in subsection (1)(b); and

(d) any other requirements under 15-10-425 and 20-20-201 for the calling of an election.

(2) ~~The total amount of building reserve, less the amount provided for in subsection (5), when added to the outstanding indebtedness of the district may not be more than the limitations provided in 20-9-406.~~ Except as provided in subsections (5)(b) and (6), a building reserve tax authorization may not be for more than 20 years.

(3) The election must be conducted in accordance with the school election laws of this title, and the electors qualified to vote in the election must be qualified under the provisions of 20-20-301. The ballot for a building reserve proposition must be substantially in compliance with 15-10-425.

(4) The building reserve proposition is approved if a majority of those electors voting at the election

approve the establishment of or addition to the building reserve. The annual budgeting and taxation authority of the trustees for a building reserve is computed by dividing the total authorized amount by the specified number of years. The authority of the trustees to budget and impose the taxation for the annual amount to be raised for the building reserve lapses when, at a later time, a bond issue is approved by the qualified electors of the district for the same purpose or purposes for which the building reserve fund of the district was established. Whenever a subsequent bond issue is made for the same purpose or purposes of a building reserve, the money in the building reserve must be used for the purpose or purposes before any money realized by the bond issue is used.

(5) (a) The trustees may submit a proposition to the qualified electors of the district for a levy to provide funding for transition costs incurred when the trustees:

(i) open a new school under the provisions of Title 20, chapter 6;

(ii) close a school;

(iii) replace a school building; or

(iv) consolidate with or annex another district under the provisions of Title 20, chapter 6.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (5)(c) and (6), the total amount the trustees may submit to the electorate for transition costs may not exceed the number of years specified in the proposition times the greater of 5% of the district's maximum general fund budget for the current year or $250 per ANB for the current year. Except as provided in subsection (6), the duration of the levy for transition costs may not exceed 6 years.

(c) If the levy for transition costs is for consolidation or annexation:

(i) the limitation on the amount levied is calculated using the ANB and the maximum general fund budget for the districts that are being combined; and

(ii) the proposition must be submitted to the qualified electors in the combined district.

(d) The levy for transition costs may not be considered as outstanding indebtedness for the purpose of calculating the limitation in 20-9-406.

(6) The trustees of a K-12 district shall impose a levy for transition costs to fund the payment required by 20-6-326(6)(b) when a proposition to create the K-12 district and to assess the transition levy has been approved pursuant to 20-6-326(2). The levy is limited to the amount required by 20-6-326(6)(b) for a period not to exceed 3 years."

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