

HOUSE BILL NO. 123

INTRODUCED BY E. MCCLAFFERTY

BY REQUEST OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN DEADLINES RELATIVE TO SCHOOL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCING LAWS; AMENDING SECTIONS 7-6-4036, 15-10-305, 20-3-205, 20-3-209, 20-7-705, 20-9-115, 20-9-121, 20-9-131, 20-9-134, 20-9-141, 20-9-142, 20-9-151, 20-9-152, 20-9-213, 20-9-439, 20-9-501, 20-9-503, 20-9-506, 20-9-533, 20-9-534, 20-9-604, 20-10-144, 20-10-146, 20-10-147, AND 20-15-313, MCA; REPEALING SECTION 20-9-211, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 7-6-4036, MCA, is amended to read:

"7-6-4036. Fixing tax levy. (1) The governing body shall fix the tax levy for each taxing jurisdiction within the county or municipality:

(a) by the later of the ~~second first Monday~~ Thursday in August ~~September~~ or within ~~45~~ 30 calendar days after receiving certified taxable values;

(b) after the approval and adoption of the final budget; and

(c) at levels that will balance the budgets as provided in 7-6-4034.

(2) Each levy:

(a) must be made in the manner provided by 15-10-201; and

(b) except for a judgment levy under 2-9-316 or 7-6-4015, is subject to 15-10-420."

Section 2. Section 15-10-305, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-10-305. Clerk and recorder to report mill levy -- department to compute and enter taxes. (1)

(a) The county clerk and recorder shall by the ~~third~~ second Monday in ~~August~~ September or within 30 calendar days after receiving certified taxable values notify the department of the number of mills needed to be levied for each taxing jurisdiction in the county. Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), the department shall compute the taxes by multiplying the number of mills times the taxable value of the property to be taxed and shall add any fees or assessments required to be levied against a person owning property. All taxes, fees, and assessments must

1 be itemized for the property listed in the property tax record.

2 (b) In conveyances that result in a land split, the taxes must be based on the property as assessed on
3 January 1 preceding the conveyance. The department is not required to include the name of the new owner in
4 the computation of the amount of taxes, fees, and assessments to be levied against property that is part of a land
5 conveyance if including the new owner's name would cause the department to violate the deadline provided in
6 subsection (2).

7 (2) The department shall complete the computation of the amount of taxes, fees, and assessments to
8 be levied against the property and shall notify the county clerk and recorder and the county treasurer by the
9 second Monday in October."

10

11 **Section 3.** Section 20-3-205, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"20-3-205. Powers and duties.** (1) The county superintendent has general supervision of the schools
13 of the county within the limitations prescribed by this title and shall perform the following duties or acts:

14 (a) determine, establish, and reestablish trustee nominating districts in accordance with the provisions
15 of 20-3-352, 20-3-353, and 20-3-354;

16 (b) administer and file the oaths of members of the boards of trustees of the districts in the county in
17 accordance with the provisions of 20-3-307;

18 (c) register the teacher or specialist certificates or emergency authorization of employment of any person
19 employed in the county as a teacher, specialist, principal, or district superintendent in accordance with the
20 provisions of 20-4-202;

21 (d) file a copy of the audit report for a district in accordance with the provisions of 20-9-203;

22 (e) classify districts in accordance with the provisions of 20-6-201 and 20-6-301;

23 (f) keep a transcript of the district boundaries of the county;

24 (g) fulfill all responsibilities assigned under the provisions of this title regulating the organization,
25 alteration, or abandonment of districts;

26 (h) act on any unification proposition and, if approved, establish additional trustee nominating districts
27 in accordance with 20-6-312 and 20-6-313;

28 (i) estimate the average number belonging (ANB) of an opening school in accordance with the provisions
29 of 20-6-502, 20-6-503, 20-6-504, or 20-6-506;

30 (j) process and, when required, act on school isolation applications in accordance with the provisions

1 of 20-9-302;

2 (k) complete the budgets, compute the budgeted revenue and tax levies, file final budgets and budget
3 amendments, and fulfill other responsibilities assigned under the provisions of this title ~~regulating school~~
4 ~~budgeting systems~~;

5 ~~_____ (l) submit an annual financial report to the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with the~~
6 ~~provisions of 20-9-244;~~

7 ~~_____ (m)(l) monthly, unless otherwise provided by law, order the county treasurer to apportion state money,~~
8 ~~county school money, and any other school money subject to apportionment in accordance with the provisions~~
9 ~~of 20-9-212, 20-9-347, 20-10-145, or 20-10-146;~~

10 ~~(n)(m)~~ act on any request to transfer average number belonging (ANB) in accordance with the provisions
11 of 20-9-313(1)(c);

12 ~~(o)(n)~~ calculate the estimated budgeted general fund sources of revenue in accordance with the general
13 fund revenue provisions of the general fund part of this title;

14 ~~(p)(o)~~ compute the revenue and compute the district and county levy requirements for each fund included
15 in each district's final budget and report the computations to the board of county commissioners in accordance
16 with the provisions of the general fund, transportation, bonds, and other school funds parts of this title;

17 ~~(q)(p)~~ file and forward bus driver certifications, transportation contracts, and state transportation
18 reimbursement claims in accordance with the provisions of 20-10-103, 20-10-143, or 20-10-145;

19 ~~(r)(q)~~ for districts that do not employ a district superintendent or principal, recommend library book and
20 textbook selections in accordance with the provisions of 20-7-204 or 20-7-602;

21 ~~(s)(r)~~ notify the superintendent of public instruction of a textbook dealer's activities when required under
22 the provisions of 20-7-605 and otherwise comply with the textbook dealer provisions of this title;

23 ~~(t)(s)~~ act on district requests to allocate federal money for indigent children for school food services in
24 accordance with the provisions of 20-10-205;

25 ~~(u)(t)~~ perform any other duty prescribed from time to time by this title, any other act of the legislature, the
26 policies of the board of public education, the policies of the board of regents relating to community college
27 districts, or the rules of the superintendent of public instruction;

28 ~~(v)(u)~~ administer the oath of office to trustees without the receipt of pay for administering the oath;

29 ~~(w)(v)~~ keep a record of official acts, preserve all reports submitted to the superintendent under the
30 provisions of this title, preserve all books and instructional equipment or supplies, keep all documents applicable

1 to the administration of the office, and surrender all records, books, supplies, and equipment to the next
2 superintendent;

3 ~~(x)~~(w) within 90 days after the close of the school fiscal year, publish an annual report in the county
4 newspaper stating the following financial information for the school fiscal year just ended for each district of the
5 county:

6 (i) the total of the cash balances of all funds maintained by the district at the beginning of the year;

7 (ii) the total receipts that were realized in each fund maintained by the district;

8 (iii) the total expenditures that were made from each fund maintained by the district; and

9 (iv) the total of the cash balances of all funds maintained by the district at the end of the school fiscal
10 year; and

11 ~~(y)~~(x) hold meetings for the members of the trustees from time to time at which matters for the good of
12 the districts must be discussed.

13 (2) (a) When a district in one county annexes a district in another county, the county superintendent of
14 the county where the annexing district is located shall perform the duties required by this section.

15 (b) When two or more districts in more than one county consolidate, the duties required by this section
16 must be performed by the county superintendent designated in the same manner as other county officials in
17 20-9-202."

18

19 **Section 4.** Section 20-3-209, MCA, is amended to read:

20 "**20-3-209. Annual report.** The county superintendent of each county shall submit an annual report to
21 the superintendent of public instruction ~~not later than the second Monday in~~ on or before September 15. The
22 report must be completed on the forms supplied by the superintendent of public instruction and must include:

23 (1) the final budget information for each district of the county, as prescribed by 20-9-134(1);

24 (2) the revenue amounts used to establish the levy requirements for the county school fund supporting
25 school district transportation schedules, as prescribed by 20-10-146, and for the county school funds supporting
26 elementary and high school district retirement obligations, as prescribed by 20-9-501;

27 (3) the financial activities of each district of the county for the immediately preceding school fiscal year
28 as provided by the trustees' annual report to the county superintendent under the provisions of 20-9-213(6); and

29 (4) any other information that may be requested by the superintendent of public instruction that is within
30 the superintendent's authority prescribed by this title."

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Section 5. Section 20-7-705, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-7-705. Adult education fund. (1) A separate adult education fund must be established when an adult education program is operated by a district or community college district. The financial administration of the fund must comply with the budgeting, financing, and expenditure provisions of the laws governing the schools.

(2) Whenever the trustees of a district establish an adult education program under the provisions of 20-7-702, they shall establish an adult education fund under the provisions of this section. The adult education fund is the depository for all district money received by the district in support of the adult education program. Federal and state adult education program money must be deposited in the miscellaneous programs fund.

(3) The trustees of a district may authorize the levy of a tax on the taxable value of all taxable property within the district for the operation of an adult education program.

(4) Whenever the trustees of a district decide to offer an adult education program during the ensuing school fiscal year, they shall budget for the cost of the program in the adult education fund of the final budget. Any expenditures in support of the adult education program under the final adult education budget must be made in accordance with the financial administration provisions of this title for a budgeted fund.

(5) When a tax levy for an adult education program is included as a revenue item on the final adult education budget, the county superintendent shall report the levy requirement to the county commissioners ~~on the fourth Monday of August~~ by the first Tuesday in September and a levy on the district must be made by the county commissioners in accordance with 20-9-142."

Section 6. Section 20-9-115, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-9-115. Notice of final budget meeting. Between July 1 and August 4 10 of each year, the clerk of each district shall publish one notice, in the local or county newspaper that the trustees of the district determine to be the newspaper with the widest circulation in the district, stating the date, time, and place that the trustees will meet for the purpose of considering and adopting the final budget of the district, stating that the meeting of the trustees may be continued from day to day until the final adoption of the district's budget, and stating that any taxpayer in the district may appear at the meeting and be heard for or against any part of the budget."

Section 7. Section 20-9-121, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-9-121. County treasurer's statement of cash balances and bond information. (1) By July 4~~0~~

1 20, the county treasurer shall prepare a statement for each district showing the amount of cash on hand for each
 2 fund maintained by the district at the close of the last-completed school fiscal year. The county treasurer shall
 3 also include on each district's statement the details on the obligation for bond retirement and interest for the
 4 school fiscal year just beginning. The format of the statement on fund cash balances and bond information must
 5 be prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction.

6 (2) By July ~~10~~ 20, the county treasurer shall prepare a statement for each county school fund supported
 7 by countywide levies, showing the amount of cash on hand at the beginning of the school fiscal year, the receipts
 8 and apportionments, and the amount of cash on hand at the end of the school fiscal year, for each county school
 9 fund maintained during the immediately preceding school fiscal year. The format of this statement must be
 10 prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction.

11 (3) ~~On or before~~ By July 10 20, the county treasurer shall deliver the statements of district and county
 12 fund cash balances and the bond information for each district to the county superintendent, who shall forward
 13 the information to each district."
 14

15 **Section 8.** Section 20-9-131, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"20-9-131. Final budget meeting.** (1) On or before August 15, on the date and at the time and place
 17 stated in the notice published pursuant to 20-9-115, the trustees of each district shall meet to consider all budget
 18 information and any attachments required by law.

19 (2) The trustees may continue the meeting from day to day but shall adopt the final budget for the district
 20 and determine the amounts to be raised by tax levies for the district not later than ~~the fourth Monday in~~ August
 21 15 and before the computation of the general fund net levy requirement by the county superintendent and the
 22 fixing of the tax levies for each district. Any taxpayer in the district may attend any portion of the trustees' meeting
 23 and be heard on the budget of the district or on any item or amount contained in the budget.

24 (3) Upon final approval, the trustees shall deliver the adopted budget, including the amounts to be raised
 25 by tax levies, to the county superintendent of schools within 5 3 days."
 26

27 **Section 9.** Section 20-9-134, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"20-9-134. Completion, filing, and delivery of final budgets.** After the final budget of the elementary,
 29 high school, or community college district has been adopted by the trustees, the county superintendent shall
 30 complete all the remaining portions of the budget forms and shall:

1 (1) send the final budget information to the superintendent of public instruction, on the forms provided
2 by the superintendent, on or before ~~the second Monday in September 15;~~ and

3 (2) in the case of the community college districts, send the final budget information to the board of
4 regents, on the forms provided by the community college coordinator, on or before September 1."

5

6 **Section 10.** Section 20-9-141, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"20-9-141. Computation of general fund net levy requirement by county superintendent.** (1) The
8 county superintendent shall compute the levy requirement for each district's general fund on the basis of the
9 following procedure:

10 (a) Determine the funding required for the district's final general fund budget less the sum of direct state
11 aid and the special education allowable cost payment for the district by totaling:

12 (i) the district's nonisolated school BASE budget requirement to be met by a district levy as provided in
13 20-9-303; and

14 (ii) any general fund budget amount adopted by the trustees of the district under the provisions of
15 20-9-308 and 20-9-353.

16 (b) Determine the money available for the reduction of the property tax on the district for the general fund
17 by totaling:

18 (i) the general fund balance reappropriated, as established under the provisions of 20-9-104;

19 (ii) amounts received in the last fiscal year for which revenue reporting was required for each of the
20 following:

21 (A) interest earned by the investment of general fund cash in accordance with the provisions of
22 20-9-213(4); and

23 (B) any other revenue received during the school fiscal year that may be used to finance the general
24 fund, excluding any guaranteed tax base aid;

25 (iii) anticipated oil and natural gas production taxes;

26 (iv) pursuant to subsection (4), anticipated revenue from coal gross proceeds under 15-23-703; and

27 (v) school district block grants distributed under 20-9-630.

28 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2), subtract the money available to reduce the property
29 tax required to finance the general fund that has been determined in subsection (1)(b) from any general fund
30 budget amount adopted by the trustees of the district, up to the BASE budget amount, to determine the general

1 fund BASE budget levy requirement.

2 (d) Determine the sum of any amount remaining after the determination in subsection (1)(c) and any
3 tuition payments for out-of-district pupils to be received under the provisions of 20-5-320 through 20-5-324, except
4 the amount of tuition received for a pupil who is a child with a disability in excess of the amount received for a
5 pupil without disabilities, as calculated under 20-5-323(2).

6 (e) Subtract the amount determined in subsection (1)(d) from any additional funding requirement to be
7 met by an over-BASE budget amount, a district levy as provided in 20-9-303, and any additional financing as
8 provided in 20-9-353 to determine any additional general fund levy requirements.

9 (2) The county superintendent shall calculate the number of mills to be levied on the taxable property
10 in the district to finance the general fund levy requirement for any amount that does not exceed the BASE budget
11 amount for the district by dividing the amount determined in subsection (1)(c) by the sum of:

12 (a) the amount of guaranteed tax base aid that the district will receive for each mill levied, as certified
13 by the superintendent of public instruction; and

14 (b) the current total taxable valuation of the district, as certified by the department of revenue under
15 15-10-202, divided by 1,000.

16 (3) The net general fund levy requirement determined in subsections (1)(c) and (1)(d) must be reported
17 to the county commissioners ~~on the fourth Monday of August~~ by the first Tuesday in September by the county
18 superintendent as the general fund net levy requirement for the district, and a levy must be set by the county
19 commissioners in accordance with 20-9-142.

20 (4) For each school district, the department of revenue shall calculate and report to the county
21 superintendent the amount of revenue anticipated for the ensuing fiscal year from revenue from coal gross
22 proceeds under 15-23-703."
23

24 **Section 11.** Section 20-9-142, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"20-9-142. Fixing and levying taxes by board of county commissioners.** ~~On the fourth Monday in~~
26 ~~August~~ By the first Tuesday in September, the county superintendent shall place before the board of county
27 commissioners the final adopted budget of the district. It is the duty of the board of county commissioners, as
28 provided in 7-6-4036, to fix and levy on all the taxable value of all the real and personal property within the district
29 all district and county taxation required to finance, within the limitations provided by law, the final budget."
30

1 **Section 12.** Section 20-9-151, MCA, is amended to read:

2 **"20-9-151. Budgeting procedure for joint districts.** (1) The trustees of a joint district shall adopt a
3 budget according to the school budgeting laws and send a copy of the budget to the county superintendent of
4 each county in which a part of the joint district is located. After approval by the trustees of the joint district, the
5 final budgets of joint districts must be filed in the office of the county superintendent of each county in which a
6 part of a joint district is located.

7 (2) The county superintendents receiving the budget of a joint district shall jointly compute the estimated
8 budget revenue and determine the number of mills that need to be levied in the joint district for each fund for
9 which a levy is to be made. The superintendent of public instruction shall establish a communication procedure
10 to facilitate the joint estimation of revenue and determination of the tax levies.

11 (3) After determining, in accordance with law, the number of mills that need to be levied for each fund
12 included on the final budget of the joint district, a joint statement of the required mill levies must be prepared and
13 signed by the county superintendents involved in the computation. A copy of the statement must be delivered to
14 the board of county commissioners of each county in which a part of the joint district is located ~~not later than the~~
15 Friday immediately preceding the fourth Monday in August by the first Tuesday in September."

16

17 **Section 13.** Section 20-9-152, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"20-9-152. Fixing and levying taxes for joint districts.** (1) At the time of fixing levies for county and
19 school purposes ~~on the fourth Monday in August~~ by the later of the first Thursday in September or within 30
20 calendar days after receiving certified taxable values, the board of county commissioners of each county in which
21 a part of a joint district is located shall fix and levy taxes on that portion of the joint district located in each board's
22 county at the number of mills for each levy recommended by the joint statement of the county superintendents.

23 (2) The board of county commissioners shall include in the amounts to be raised by the county levies
24 for schools all the amounts required for the final budget of each part of a joint district located in the county, in
25 accordance with the recommendations of the county superintendent."

26

27 **Section 14.** Section 20-9-213, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"20-9-213. Duties of trustees.** The trustees of each district have the authority to transact all fiscal
29 business and execute all contracts in the name of the district. A person other than the trustees acting as a
30 governing board may not expend money of the district. In conducting the fiscal business of the district, the

1 trustees shall:

2 (1) cause the keeping of an accurate, detailed accounting of all receipts and expenditures of school
3 money for each fund and account maintained by the district in accordance with generally accepted accounting
4 principles and the rules prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction. The record of the accounting must
5 be open to public inspection at any meeting of the trustees.

6 (2) authorize all expenditures of district money and cause warrants or checks, as applicable, to be issued
7 for the payment of lawful obligations;

8 (3) issue warrants or checks, as applicable, on any budgeted fund in anticipation of budgeted revenue,
9 except that the expenditures may not exceed the amount budgeted for the fund;

10 (4) invest any money of the district, whenever in the judgment of the trustees the investment would be
11 advantageous to the district, either by directing the county treasurer to invest any money of the district or by
12 directly investing the money of the district in eligible securities, as identified in 7-6-202, in savings or time deposits
13 in a state or national bank, building or loan association, savings and loan association, or credit union insured by
14 the FDIC or NCUA located in the state, or in a repurchase agreement that meets the criteria provided for in
15 7-6-213. All interest collected on the deposits or investments must be credited to the fund from which the money
16 was withdrawn, except that interest earned on account of the investment of money realized from the sale of bonds
17 must be credited to the debt service fund or the building fund, at the discretion of the board of trustees. The
18 placement of the investment by the county treasurer is not subject to ratable distribution laws and must be done
19 in accordance with the directive from the board of trustees. A district may invest money under the state unified
20 investment program established in Title 17, chapter 6, or in a unified investment program with the county
21 treasurer, with other school districts, or with any other political subdivision if the unified investment program is
22 limited to investments that meet the requirements of this subsection (4), including those investments authorized
23 by the board of investments under Title 17, chapter 6. A school district that enters into a unified investment
24 program with another school district or political subdivision other than the state shall do so under the auspices
25 of and by complying with the provisions governing interlocal cooperative agreements authorized under Title 7,
26 chapter 11, and educational cooperative agreements authorized under Title 20, chapter 9, part 7. A school district
27 either shall contract for investment services with any company complying with the provisions of Title 30, chapter
28 10, or shall contract with the state board of investments for investment services.

29 (5) cause the district to record each transaction in the appropriate account before the accounts are
30 closed at the end of the fiscal year in order to properly report the receipt, use, and disposition of all money and

1 property for which the district is accountable;

2 (6) report annually to the county superintendent, not later than August 15, the financial activities of each
3 fund maintained by the district during the last-completed school fiscal year, on the forms prescribed and furnished
4 by the superintendent of public instruction. Annual fiscal reports for joint school districts must be submitted ~~not~~
5 ~~later than September 1~~ on or before August 15 to the county superintendent of each county in which part of the
6 joint district is situated.

7 (7) whenever requested, report any other fiscal activities to the county superintendent, superintendent
8 of public instruction, or board of public education;

9 (8) cause the accounting records of the district to be audited as required by 2-7-503; and

10 (9) perform, in the manner permitted by law, other fiscal duties that are in the best interests of the
11 district."

12

13 **Section 15.** Section 20-9-439, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"20-9-439. Computation of net levy requirement for general obligation bonds -- procedure when**
15 **levy inadequate.** Subject to 20-6-326, the following provisions apply:

16 (1) The county superintendent shall compute the levy requirement for each school district's general
17 obligation debt service fund on the basis of the following procedure:

18 (a) Determine the total money available in the debt service fund for the reduction of the property tax on
19 the district by totaling:

20 (i) the end-of-the-year fund balance in the debt service fund, less any limited operating reserve as
21 provided in 20-9-438;

22 (ii) anticipated interest to be earned by the investment of debt service cash in accordance with the
23 provisions of 20-9-213(4) or by the investment of bond proceeds under the provisions of 20-9-435;

24 (iii) any state advance for school facilities distributed to a qualified district under the provisions of
25 20-9-346, 20-9-370, and 20-9-371;

26 (iv) funds transferred from the impact aid fund established pursuant to 20-9-514 that are authorized by
27 20-9-437(2) to be used to repay the district's bonds; and

28 (v) any other money, including money from federal sources, anticipated by the trustees to be available
29 in the debt service fund during the ensuing school fiscal year from sources such as legally authorized money
30 transfers into the debt service fund or from rental income, excluding any guaranteed tax base aid.

1 (b) Subtract the total amount available to reduce the property tax, determined in subsection (1)(a), from
2 the final budget for the debt service fund as established in 20-9-438.

3 (2) The net debt service fund levy requirement determined in subsection (1)(b) must be reported to the
4 county commissioners ~~on the fourth Monday of August~~ by the first Tuesday in September by the county
5 superintendent as the net debt service fund levy requirement for the district, and a levy must be made by the
6 county commissioners in accordance with 20-9-142.

7 (3) If the board of county commissioners fails in any school fiscal year to make a levy for any issue or
8 series of bonds of a school district sufficient to raise the money necessary for payment of interest and principal
9 becoming due during the next ensuing school fiscal year, in any amounts established under the provisions of this
10 section, the holder of any bond of the issue or series or any taxpayer of the district may apply to the district court
11 of the county in which the school district is located for a writ of mandate to compel the board of county
12 commissioners of the county to make a sufficient levy for payment purposes. If, upon the hearing of the
13 application, it appears to the satisfaction of the court that the board of county commissioners of the county has
14 failed to make a levy or has made a levy that is insufficient to raise the amount required to be raised as
15 established in the manner provided in this section, the court shall determine the amount of the deficiency and
16 shall issue a writ of mandate directed to and requiring the board of county commissioners, at the next meeting
17 for the purpose of fixing tax levies for county purposes, to fix and make a levy against all taxable property in the
18 school district that is sufficient to raise the amount of the deficiency. The levy is in addition to any levy required
19 to be made at that time for the ensuing school fiscal year. Any costs that may be allowed or awarded the
20 petitioner in the proceeding must be paid by the members of the board of county commissioners and may not be
21 a charge against the school district or the county."

22

23 **Section 16.** Section 20-9-501, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"20-9-501. Retirement costs and retirement fund.** (1) The trustees of a district or the management
25 board of a cooperative employing personnel who are members of the teachers' retirement system or the public
26 employees' retirement system, who are covered by unemployment insurance, or who are covered by any federal
27 social security system requiring employer contributions shall establish a retirement fund for the purposes of
28 budgeting and paying the employer's contributions to the systems as provided in subsection (2)(a). The district's
29 or the cooperative's contribution for each employee who is a member of the teachers' retirement system must
30 be calculated in accordance with Title 19, chapter 20, part 6. The district's or the cooperative's contribution for

1 each employee who is a member of the public employees' retirement system must be calculated in accordance
2 with 19-3-316. The district's or the cooperative's contributions for each employee covered by any federal social
3 security system must be paid in accordance with federal law and regulation. The district's or the cooperative's
4 contribution for each employee who is covered by unemployment insurance must be paid in accordance with Title
5 39, chapter 51, part 11.

6 (2) (a) The district or the cooperative shall pay the employer's contributions to the retirement, federal
7 social security, and unemployment insurance systems from the retirement fund for the following:

8 (i) a district employee whose salary and health-related benefits, if any health-related benefits are
9 provided to the employee, are paid from state or local funding sources;

10 (ii) a cooperative employee whose salary and health-related benefits, if any health-related benefits are
11 provided to the employee, are paid from the cooperative's interlocal cooperative fund if the fund is supported
12 solely from districts' general funds and state special education allowable cost payments, pursuant to 20-9-321,
13 or are paid from the miscellaneous programs fund, provided for in 20-9-507, from money received from the
14 medicaid program, pursuant to 53-6-101;

15 (iii) a district employee whose salary and health-related benefits, if any health-related benefits are
16 provided to the employee, are paid from the district's school food services fund provided for in 20-10-204; and

17 (iv) a district employee whose salary and health-related benefits, if any health-related benefits are
18 provided to the employee, are paid from the district impact aid fund, pursuant to 20-9-514; ~~and.~~

19 ~~(v) for the 2011 biennium only, a district employee whose salary and health-related benefits, if any~~
20 ~~health-related benefits are provided to the employee, are budgeted in the district general fund but are paid from~~
21 ~~state fiscal stabilization funds received pursuant the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public~~
22 ~~Law 111-5.~~

23 (b) For an employee whose benefits are not paid from the retirement fund, the district or the cooperative
24 shall pay the employer's contributions to the retirement, federal social security, and unemployment insurance
25 systems from the funding source that pays the employee's salary.

26 (3) The trustees of a district required to make a contribution to a system referred to in subsection (1) shall
27 include in the retirement fund of the final budget the estimated amount of the employer's contribution. After the
28 final retirement fund budget has been adopted, the trustees shall pay the employer contributions to the systems
29 in accordance with the financial administration provisions of this title.

30 (4) When the final retirement fund budget has been adopted, the county superintendent shall establish

1 the levy requirement by:

2 (a) determining the sum of the money available to reduce the retirement fund levy requirement by adding:

3 (i) any anticipated money that may be realized in the retirement fund during the ensuing school fiscal
4 year;

5 (ii) oil and natural gas production taxes;

6 (iii) coal gross proceeds taxes under 15-23-703;

7 (iv) any fund balance available for reappropriation as determined by subtracting the amount of the
8 end-of-the-year fund balance earmarked as the retirement fund operating reserve for the ensuing school fiscal
9 year by the trustees from the end-of-the-year fund balance in the retirement fund. The retirement fund operating
10 reserve may not be more than 35% of the final retirement fund budget for the ensuing school fiscal year and must
11 be used for the purpose of paying retirement fund warrants issued by the district under the final retirement fund
12 budget.

13 (v) any other revenue anticipated that may be realized in the retirement fund during the ensuing school
14 fiscal year, excluding any guaranteed tax base aid.

15 (b) notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (9), subtracting the money available for reduction of the
16 levy requirement, as determined in subsection (4)(a), from the budgeted amount for expenditures in the final
17 retirement fund budget.

18 (5) The county superintendent shall:

19 (a) total the net retirement fund levy requirements separately for all elementary school districts, all high
20 school districts, and all community college districts of the county, including any prorated joint district or special
21 education cooperative agreement levy requirements; and

22 (b) report each levy requirement to the county commissioners ~~on the fourth Monday of August~~ by the
23 first Tuesday in September as the respective county levy requirements for elementary district, high school district,
24 and community college district retirement funds.

25 (6) The county commissioners shall fix and set the county levy or district levy in accordance with
26 20-9-142.

27 (7) The net retirement fund levy requirement for a joint elementary district or a joint high school district
28 must be prorated to each county in which a part of the district is located in the same proportion as the district ANB
29 of the joint district is distributed by pupil residence in each county. The county superintendents of the counties
30 affected shall jointly determine the net retirement fund levy requirement for each county as provided in 20-9-151.

1 (8) The net retirement fund levy requirement for districts that are members of special education
 2 cooperative agreements must be prorated to each county in which the district is located in the same proportion
 3 as the special education cooperative budget is prorated to the member school districts. The county
 4 superintendents of the counties affected shall jointly determine the net retirement fund levy requirement for each
 5 county in the same manner as provided in 20-9-151, and the county commissioners shall fix and levy the net
 6 retirement fund levy for each county in the same manner as provided in 20-9-152.

7 (9) The county superintendent shall calculate the number of mills to be levied on the taxable property
 8 in the county to finance the retirement fund net levy requirement by dividing the amount determined in subsection
 9 (5)(a) by the sum of:

10 (a) the amount of guaranteed tax base aid that the county will receive for each mill levied, as certified
 11 by the superintendent of public instruction; and

12 (b) the taxable valuation of the district divided by 1,000.

13 (10) The levy for a community college district may be applied only to property within the district.

14 (11) The county superintendent of each county shall submit a report of the revenue amounts used to
 15 establish the levy requirements for county school funds supporting elementary and high school district retirement
 16 obligations to the superintendent of public instruction not later than ~~the second Monday in~~ September 15. The
 17 report must be completed on forms supplied by the superintendent of public instruction."
 18

19 **Section 17.** Section 20-9-503, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"20-9-503. Budgeting, tax levy, and use of building reserve fund.** (1) Whenever an annual building
 21 reserve authorization to budget is available to a district, the trustees shall include the authorized amount in the
 22 building reserve fund of the final budget. The county superintendent shall report the amount as the building
 23 reserve fund levy requirement to the county commissioners ~~on the fourth Monday of August~~ by the first Tuesday
 24 in September, and a levy on the district must be made by the county commissioners in accordance with 20-9-142.

25 (2) The trustees of any district maintaining a building reserve fund may:

26 (a) pledge the revenue for loans from the building reserve fund levy for up to 5 years. However, loan
 27 proceeds may be used only for projects authorized by 20-9-502.

28 (b) expend money from the fund for the purpose or purposes for which it was authorized without the
 29 specific expenditures being included in the final budget when, in their discretion, there is a sufficient amount of
 30 money to begin the authorized projects. The expenditures may not invalidate the district's authority to continue

1 the annual imposition of the building reserve taxation authorized by the electors of the district.

2 (3) Whenever there is money credited to the building reserve fund for which there is no immediate need,
3 the trustees may invest the money in accordance with 20-9-213(4). The interest earned from the investment must
4 be credited to the building reserve fund or the debt service fund, at the discretion of the trustees, and expended
5 for any purpose authorized by law for the fund."

6

7 **Section 18.** Section 20-9-506, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"20-9-506. Budgeting and net levy requirement for nonoperating fund.** (1) The trustees of any
9 district ~~which that~~ does not operate a school or will not operate a school during the ensuing school fiscal year
10 shall adopt a nonoperating school district budget in accordance with the school budgeting provisions of this title.
11 ~~Such~~ The nonoperating budget ~~shall~~ must contain the nonoperating fund and, when appropriate, a debt service
12 fund. The nonoperating budget form ~~shall~~ must be promulgated and distributed by the superintendent of public
13 instruction under the provisions of 20-9-103.

14 (2) After the adoption of a final budget for the nonoperating fund, the county superintendent shall
15 compute the net levy requirement for ~~such the~~ fund by subtracting from the amount authorized by ~~such the~~ budget
16 the sum of:

17 (a) the end-of-the-year cash balance of the nonoperating fund or, if it is the first year of nonoperation,
18 the cash balance determined under the transfer provisions of 20-9-505;

19 (b) the estimated state and county transportation reimbursements; and

20 (c) any other ~~moneys~~ money that may become available during the ensuing school fiscal year.

21 (3) The county superintendent shall report the net nonoperating fund levy requirement and any net debt
22 service fund levy requirement determined under the provisions of 20-9-439 to the county commissioners ~~on the~~
23 ~~fourth Monday of August~~ on or before the first Tuesday in September, and ~~such levies shall be made on the~~
24 ~~district by the county commissioners~~ shall impose the required levies on the district in accordance with 20-9-142."

25

26 **Section 19.** Section 20-9-533, MCA, is amended to read:

27 **"20-9-533. Technology acquisition and depreciation fund -- limitations.** (1) The trustees of a district
28 may establish a technology acquisition and depreciation fund for school district expenditures incurred and
29 depreciation accrued for:

30 (a) the purchase, rental, repair, maintenance, and depreciation of technological equipment, including

1 computers and computer network access; and

2 (b) associated technical training for school district personnel.

3 (2) Any expenditures from the technology acquisition and depreciation fund must be made in accordance
4 with the financial administration requirements for a budgeted fund pursuant to this title. The trustees of a district
5 shall fund the technology acquisition and depreciation fund with:

6 (a) the state money received under 20-9-534; and

7 (b) other local, state, private, and federal funds received for the purpose of funding technology or
8 technology-associated training.

9 (3) In depreciating the technological equipment of a school district, the trustees may include in the
10 district's budget, contingent upon voter approval of a levy under subsection (6) and pursuant to the school
11 budgeting requirements of this title, an amount each fiscal year that does not exceed 20% of the original cost of
12 any technological equipment, including computers and computer network access, that is owned by the district.
13 The amount budgeted may not, over time, exceed 150% of the original cost of the equipment.

14 (4) The annual revenue requirement for each district's technology acquisition and depreciation fund
15 determined within the limitations of this section must be reported by the county superintendent of schools to the
16 board of county commissioners on ~~the fourth Monday of August~~ or before the first Tuesday in September as the
17 technology acquisition and depreciation fund levy requirement for that district, and a levy must be made by the
18 county commissioners in accordance with 20-9-142.

19 (5) Any expenditure of technology acquisition and depreciation fund money must be within the limitations
20 of the district's final technology acquisition and depreciation fund budget and the school financial administration
21 provisions of this title.

22 (6) In addition to the funds received pursuant to subsection (2), the trustees of a school district may
23 submit a proposition to the qualified electors of the district to approve an additional levy to fund the depreciation
24 of technological equipment authorized under this section. The election must be called and conducted in the
25 manner prescribed by this title for school elections and in the manner prescribed by 15-10-425.

26 (7) The technology proposition is approved if a majority of those electors voting at the election approve
27 the levy. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the levy under subsection (6) is subject to 15-10-420.

28 (8) The trustees of a district may not use revenue in the technology acquisition and depreciation fund
29 to finance contributions to the teachers' retirement system, the public employees' retirement system, or the federal
30 social security system or for unemployment compensation insurance."

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Section 20. Section 20-9-534, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-9-534. Statutory appropriation for school technology purposes. (1) The amount of \$1 million a year is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, from the school facility and technology account established in 20-9-516 for grants for school technology purposes.

(2) By ~~September 4~~ the third Friday in July, the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate the annual statutory appropriation for school technology purposes to each district based on the ratio that each district's BASE budget bears to the statewide BASE budget amount for all school districts multiplied by the amount of money provided in 20-9-343 for the purposes of 20-9-533 in the prior fiscal year."

Section 21. Section 20-9-604, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-9-604. Gifts, legacies, devises, and administration of endowment fund. (1) The trustees of a district may accept gifts, legacies, and devises, subject to the conditions imposed by the deed of the donor or the will of the testator or without any conditions imposed. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, deviser, or testator, when a district receives a gift, legacy, or devise, the trustees shall deposit the gift, legacy, devise, or the proceeds in an endowment fund. The trustees shall administer the endowment fund so as to preserve the principal from loss, and only the income from the fund may be appropriated for any purpose.

(2) Unless the conditions of the endowment instrument require an immediate disbursement of the money, the money deposited in the endowment fund must be invested by the trustees according to the provisions of the Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act, Title 72, chapter 30.

(3) All interest collected on the deposits or investments must be credited to the endowment fund. No portion of the endowment fund may be loaned to the district, nor may any money of the fund be invested in warrants of the district.

(4) Whenever a district has been abandoned, the endowment fund of the abandoned district must be transferred and placed in the endowment fund in the district to which the territory is attached.

(5) As the custodian of the endowment fund, the county treasurer is liable on the treasurer's official bond for the endowment fund of any district of the county. ~~No later than~~ By July 4 20 ~~each school fiscal year~~, the county treasurer shall report to the trustees of each district on the condition of its endowment fund, including the status of the investments that have been made with the money of the fund. The county treasurer shall also include the endowment fund in the treasurer's reports to the board of county commissioners.

1 (6) The trustees of any district having an endowment fund shall provide suitable memorials for all
2 persons or associations of persons making gifts to the district that become a part of the endowment fund."
3

4 **Section 22.** Section 20-10-144, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"20-10-144. Computation of revenue and net tax levy requirements for district transportation fund**
6 **budget.** Before the second Monday of August, the county superintendent shall compute the revenue available
7 to finance the transportation fund budget of each district. The county superintendent shall compute the revenue
8 for each district on the following basis:

9 (1) The "schedule amount" of the budget expenditures that is derived from the rate schedules in
10 20-10-141 and 20-10-142 must be determined by adding the following amounts:

11 (a) the sum of the maximum reimbursable expenditures for all approved school bus routes maintained
12 by the district (to determine the maximum reimbursable expenditure, multiply the applicable rate for each bus mile
13 by the total number of miles to be traveled during the ensuing school fiscal year on each bus route approved by
14 the county transportation committee and maintained by the district); plus

15 (b) the total of all individual transportation per diem reimbursement rates for the district as determined
16 from the contracts submitted by the district multiplied by the number of pupil-instruction days scheduled for the
17 ensuing school attendance year; plus

18 (c) any estimated costs for supervised home study or supervised correspondence study for the ensuing
19 school fiscal year; plus

20 (d) the amount budgeted in the budget for the contingency amount permitted in 20-10-143, except if the
21 amount exceeds 10% of the total of subsections (1)(a), (1)(b), and (1)(c) or \$100, whichever is larger, the
22 contingency amount on the budget must be reduced to the limitation amount and used in this determination of
23 the schedule amount; plus

24 (e) any estimated costs for transporting a child out of district when the child has mandatory approval to
25 attend school in a district outside the district of residence.

26 (2) (a) The schedule amount determined in subsection (1) or the total transportation fund budget,
27 whichever is smaller, is divided by 2 and is used to determine the available state and county revenue to be
28 budgeted on the following basis:

29 (i) one-half is the budgeted state transportation reimbursement; and

30 (ii) one-half is the budgeted county transportation fund reimbursement and must be financed in the

1 manner provided in 20-10-146.

2 (b) When the district has a sufficient amount of fund balance for reappropriation and other sources of
3 district revenue, as determined in subsection (3), to reduce the total district obligation for financing to zero, any
4 remaining amount of district revenue and fund balance reappropriated must be used to reduce the county
5 financing obligation in subsection (2)(a)(ii) and, if the county financing obligations are reduced to zero, to reduce
6 the state financial obligation in subsection (2)(a)(i).

7 (c) The county revenue requirement for a joint district, after the application of any district money under
8 subsection (2)(b), must be prorated to each county incorporated by the joint district in the same proportion as the
9 ANB of the joint district is distributed by pupil residence in each county.

10 (3) The total of the money available for the reduction of property tax on the district for the transportation
11 fund must be determined by totaling:

12 (a) anticipated federal money received under the provisions of 20 U.S.C. 7701, et seq., or other
13 anticipated federal money received in lieu of that federal act;

14 (b) anticipated payments from other districts for providing school bus transportation services for the
15 district;

16 (c) anticipated payments from a parent or guardian for providing school bus transportation services for
17 a child;

18 (d) anticipated or reappropriated interest to be earned by the investment of transportation fund cash in
19 accordance with the provisions of 20-9-213(4);

20 (e) anticipated revenue from coal gross proceeds under 15-23-703;

21 (f) anticipated oil and natural gas production taxes;

22 (g) anticipated local government severance tax payments for calendar year 1995 production;

23 (h) anticipated transportation payments for out-of-district pupils under the provisions of 20-5-320 through
24 20-5-324;

25 (i) school district block grants distributed under 20-9-630;

26 (j) any other revenue anticipated by the trustees to be earned during the ensuing school fiscal year that
27 may be used to finance the transportation fund; and

28 (k) any fund balance available for reappropriation as determined by subtracting the amount of the
29 end-of-the-year fund balance earmarked as the transportation fund operating reserve for the ensuing school fiscal
30 year by the trustees from the end-of-the-year fund balance in the transportation fund. The operating reserve may

1 not be more than 20% of the final transportation fund budget for the ensuing school fiscal year and is for the
 2 purpose of paying transportation fund warrants issued by the district under the final transportation fund budget.

3 (4) The district levy requirement for each district's transportation fund must be computed by:

4 (a) subtracting the schedule amount calculated in subsection (1) from the total preliminary transportation
 5 budget amount; and

6 (b) subtracting the amount of money available to reduce the property tax on the district, as determined
 7 in subsection (3), from the amount determined in subsection (4)(a).

8 (5) The transportation fund levy requirements determined in subsection (4) for each district must be
 9 reported to the county commissioners ~~on the fourth Monday of August~~ on or before the first Tuesday in
 10 September by the county superintendent as the transportation fund levy requirements for the district, and the levy
 11 must be made by the county commissioners in accordance with 20-9-142."

12

13 **Section 23.** Section 20-10-146, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"20-10-146. County transportation reimbursement.** (1) The apportionment of the county transportation
 15 reimbursement by the county superintendent for school bus transportation or individual transportation that is
 16 actually rendered by a district in accordance with this title, board of public education transportation policy, and
 17 the transportation rules of the superintendent of public instruction must be the same as the state transportation
 18 reimbursement payment, except that:

19 (a) if any cash was used to reduce the budgeted county transportation reimbursement under the
 20 provisions of 20-10-144(2)(b), the annual apportionment is limited to the budget amount;

21 (b) when the county transportation reimbursement for a school bus has been prorated between two or
 22 more counties because the school bus is conveying pupils of more than one district located in the counties, the
 23 apportionment of the county transportation reimbursement must be adjusted to pay the amount computed under
 24 the proration; and

25 (c) when county transportation reimbursement is required under the mandatory attendance agreement
 26 provisions of 20-5-321.

27 (2) The county transportation net levy requirement for the financing of the county transportation fund
 28 reimbursements to districts is computed by:

29 (a) totaling the net requirement for all districts of the county, including reimbursements to a special
 30 education cooperative or prorated reimbursements to joint districts or reimbursements under the mandatory

1 attendance agreement provisions of 20-5-321;

2 (b) determining the sum of the money available to reduce the county transportation net levy requirement
3 by adding:

4 (i) anticipated money that may be realized in the county transportation fund during the ensuing school
5 fiscal year;

6 (ii) oil and natural gas production taxes;

7 (iii) anticipated local government severance tax payments for calendar year 1995 production;

8 (iv) coal gross proceeds taxes under 15-23-703;

9 (v) countywide school transportation block grants distributed under 20-9-632;

10 (vi) any fund balance available for reappropriation from the end-of-the-year fund balance in the county
11 transportation fund;

12 (vii) federal forest reserve funds allocated under the provisions of 17-3-213; and

13 (viii) other revenue anticipated that may be realized in the county transportation fund during the ensuing
14 school fiscal year; and

15 (c) subtracting the money available, as determined in subsection (2)(b), to reduce the levy requirement
16 from the county transportation net levy requirement.

17 (3) The net levy requirement determined in subsection (2)(c) must be reported to the county
18 commissioners ~~on the fourth Monday of August~~ on or before the first Tuesday in September by the county
19 superintendent, and a levy must be set by the county commissioners in accordance with 20-9-142.

20 (4) The county superintendent of each county shall submit a report of the revenue amounts used to
21 establish the levy requirements to the superintendent of public instruction ~~not later than the second Monday in~~
22 on or before September 15. The report must be completed on forms supplied by the superintendent of public
23 instruction.

24 (5) The county superintendent shall apportion the county transportation reimbursement from the
25 proceeds of the county transportation fund. The county superintendent shall order the county treasurer to make
26 the apportionments in accordance with 20-9-212(2) and after the receipt of the semiannual state transportation
27 reimbursement payments."

28

29 **Section 24.** Section 20-10-147, MCA, is amended to read:

30 **"20-10-147. Bus depreciation reserve fund.** (1) The trustees of a district owning a bus or a two-way

1 radio used for purposes of transportation, as defined in 20-10-101, or for purposes of conveying pupils to and
 2 from school functions or activities may establish a bus depreciation reserve fund to be used for the conversion,
 3 remodeling, or rebuilding of a bus or for the replacement of a bus or radio. The trustees of a district may also use
 4 the bus depreciation reserve fund to purchase an additional bus for purposes of transportation, as defined in
 5 20-10-101.

6 (2) Whenever a bus depreciation reserve fund is established, the trustees may include in the district's
 7 budget, in accordance with the school budgeting provisions of this title, an amount each year that does not
 8 exceed 20% of the original cost of a bus or a two-way radio. The amount budgeted may not, over time, exceed
 9 150% of the original cost of a bus or two-way radio. The annual revenue requirement for each district's bus
 10 depreciation reserve fund, determined within the limitations of this section, must be reported by the county
 11 superintendent to the county commissioners ~~on the fourth Monday of August~~ by the first Tuesday in September
 12 as the bus depreciation reserve fund levy requirement for that district, and a levy must be made by the county
 13 commissioners in accordance with 20-9-142.

14 (3) Any expenditure of bus depreciation reserve fund money must be within the limitations of the district's
 15 final bus depreciation reserve fund budget and the school financial administration provisions of this title and may
 16 be made only to convert, remodel, or rebuild buses, to replace the buses or radios, or for the purchase of an
 17 additional bus as provided in subsection (1), for which the bus depreciation reserve fund was created.

18 (4) Whenever the trustees of a district maintaining a bus depreciation reserve fund sell all of the district's
 19 buses and consider it to be in the best interest of the district to transfer any portion or all of the bus depreciation
 20 reserve fund balance to any other fund maintained by the district, the trustees shall submit the proposition to the
 21 electors of the district. The electors qualified to vote at the election shall qualify under 20-20-301, and the election
 22 must be called and conducted in the manner prescribed by this title for school elections. If a majority of those
 23 electors voting at the election approve the proposed transfer from the bus depreciation reserve fund, the transfer
 24 is approved and the trustees shall immediately order the county treasurer to make the approved transfer."
 25

26 **Section 25.** Section 20-15-313, MCA, is amended to read:

27 **"20-15-313. Tax levy.** ~~On the second Monday in August~~ By the first Thursday in September, the board
 28 of county commissioners of any county where a community college district is located shall, subject to 15-10-420,
 29 fix and levy a tax on all the real and personal property within the community college district at the rate required
 30 to finance the mandatory mill levy prescribed by 20-15-312(1)(b) and the voted levy prescribed by 20-15-311(5)

1 if one has been approved by the voters. When a community college district has territory in more than one county,
2 the board of county commissioners in each county shall fix and levy the community college district tax on all the
3 real and personal property of the community college district situated in its county."

4
5 NEW SECTION. **Section 26. Repealer.** The following section of the Montana Code Annotated is
6 repealed:

7 20-9-211. Annual financial report of county superintendent.

8
9 NEW SECTION. **Section 27. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

10 - END -