

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 221

2 INTRODUCED BY DICK BARRETT

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EMERGENCY FOOD
5 SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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7 WHEREAS, unemployment and increased housing, fuel, and food costs have made it more difficult for
8 low-income Montanans to feed their families; and9 WHEREAS, Montana's emergency food assistance programs have seen first-hand the effect of these
10 increasing costs, documenting 909,430 total client visits in 2009; and11 WHEREAS, the number of client visits includes repeat visits, with an average of 8.3 repeat visits in 2009,
12 representing 109,681 individual Montana households; and13 WHEREAS, the number of repeat visits to food banks, soup kitchens, rescue missions, faith-based
14 pantries, and other providers reflects a chronic need in the emergency food system.

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

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18 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated from the general fund to the
19 department of public health and human services \$1 million a year in each year of the biennium beginning July
20 1, 2011, to obtain and distribute food to Montanans and to strengthen the emergency food system by contracting
21 with emergency food assistance programs that have experience distributing food on a statewide basis. The funds
22 must be used as follows:23 (a) \$150,000 in each year of the biennium for operational and administrative costs to transport food to
24 Montana communities; and

25 (b) \$850,000 in each year of the biennium to purchase additional food for the emergency food system.

26 Of this amount, \$25,000 must be used each year to buy or process Montana food products.

27 (2) The department may not use the appropriation to cover any of the department's administrative costs.

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29 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2011.

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