SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. 1

Date 1-17-13

Bill No. HB1

2013 House Bill No. 1 – The Feed Bill
Fact Sheet

Authority

Montana Constitution: Article V, Section 5. Each member of the legislature shall receive compensation for his services and allowances provided by law. No legislature may fix its own compensation.

Budgetary Approving Authorities: Section 17-7-102, MCA. The President for the Senate; the Speaker for the House of Representatives.

2013 Costs in Section 1(1).

Legislator Session Costs: Salary, per diem, and mileage are fixed costs either defined or required by law. Health insurance and retirements are benefits that legislators may choose to participate in, but costs are fixed in law.

1. Salary: $82.64 per legislative day. Commensurate to a daily rate of a state employee earning $10.33 an hour, adjusted by statutorily required pay increases from previous session, if any. 5-2-301, MCA. Amount has not changed since 2007--2009 amendments reduced slightly.
2. Per diem: $109.78 per day paid 7 days a week during a legislative session unless the Legislature recesses for more than 3 days. Rate recalculated each session as the **lowest** one of the following prescribed in 5-2-301, MCA:
    a. Department of Administration survey of 4 surrounding states;
    b. Cost of living increase calculated by the Department of Revenue (method used for 2013); or
    c. 5% increase.
3. Mileage: Rate provided for in statute, 2-18-503, MCA, currently $.555/mile. Legislator is allowed 4 round trips.
4. Health Insurance: Two options provided in 5-2-303, MCA. Effective for the entire 2-year term.
    a. Option 1 (same as state employees) Participate in state benefits group plan and receive the current employer contribution of $733/month. (Any rate change is in HB 13.)
    b. Option 2 (available only to legislators) – Retain comparable personal coverage and receive reimbursement of out-of-pocket premium cost up to $733/month.
5. Public Retirement Systems: Option to participate in public retirement systems for entire 2-year term. Employee and employer contribution required whenever salary is paid. 5-2-304, MCA.

Employer costs for health insurance and retirement payable during the interim are paid from the feed bill, House Bill No. 1. (Costs related to legislator salary, lodging, meals and mileage for interim committee activity is included in House Bill No. 2 under Program 21, Interim Committees and Activities.)

House and Senate Staff and Operations: Projections for salaries based on historical staffing patterns and new hire data. Operational costs based on expenditure history. House and Senate telephone cost is budgeted within the legislative services division feed bill funding.

The Feed Bill Fact Sheet (cont.)

Legislative Services Division (LSD) Data Distribution and Information Offices: 5-11-112, MCA. Requires the LSD to distribute legislative bills and information and to publish legislative records. The data distribution office and the legislative information office are activated just prior to a legislative session for the duration of the session. Costs include bills printing and distribution and legislative information office that provides information to the public through the toll-free phone number and delivers phone and web messages to legislators and legislative committees.

Legislator Technology Allowance: Included in the legislative branch computer systems plan approved by the Computer Systems Planning Council and the Legislative Council. Provides an allowance to reimburse legislators for the purchase of technology equipment up to $1,000. Legislator is eligible each 4 years.

2015 Costs in Section 1(1).

Pre-session Caucus: 5-2-201, MCA. To be held not later than December 1 of each year following an election of members of the legislature. Legislators and legislators-elect entitled to compensation and expenses.

Pre-session Organization: 5-2-202, MCA. Legislators nominated to leadership positions, the committee on committees, and rules committees may meet and perform organizational tasks. Entitled to receive compensation and expenses.

Legislator Orientation and Training: 5-2-203, MCA. A legislator or legislator-elect attending legislative orientation and training is entitled to receive compensation and expenses.

2015 Costs in Section 1(2).

Succeeding Session Initial Costs: Provides funding for the succeeding session until the feed bill is passed and implemented. Includes initial mileage and per diem for legislators, and first payroll for legislators and staff. Calculated based on session start date, state payroll calendar, and statutory requirements (Through 2015 Legislative Day 13)

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