

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE WINTER ICE SPORTS AND RECREATION
5 COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS TO
6 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AND CREATE THE WINTER ICE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD;
7 PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING AN
8 EFFECTIVE DATE."

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10 WHEREAS, winter ice sports and recreation, such as ice hockey, figure skating, curling, and open public
11 recreational skating, provide Montana communities across the state with economic, social, and recreational
12 benefits; and

13 WHEREAS, winter ice sports and recreation provide Montana youth and adults with the opportunity for
14 exercise that is a public health benefit; and

15 WHEREAS, participation in winter ice sports and recreation is limited by financial constraints, including
16 maintenance costs for facilities, utility costs for maintaining ice surfaces, and travel costs associated with team
17 sports and events; and

18 WHEREAS, low-income families are particularly affected by the cost.

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

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22 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Winter ice sports and recreation community grants -- administration**

23 **-- rulemaking.** (1) There is a winter ice sports and recreation community grant program administered by the
24 department of fish, wildlife, and parks. The intent of the program is to aid in developing local and statewide
25 leagues and programs for winter ice competition, recreation, and entertainment.

26 (2) The department shall establish a winter ice recreation advisory board composed of representatives
27 from statewide ice hockey, figure skating, curling, and other winter ice recreation organizations to develop a
28 comprehensive statewide winter ice recreational program and to establish criteria for application, review, and
29 prioritization of grant applications for funding. Representation on the winter ice recreation advisory board must
30 be proportional to public participation in the sport or activity.

1 (3) (a) The department may award programmatic grants to individuals, small businesses, units of local
2 government, units of the university system, and nonprofit organizations to:

3 (i) develop or enhance winter ice sports and recreation opportunities, including improvement of facilities;

4 (ii) provide assistance to low-income families to participate in winter ice sports and recreation;

5 (iii) offset operation, personnel, and maintenance costs at winter ice recreational facilities in order to
6 provide lower ice rental fees for participating organizations that provide public recreation; and

7 (iv) provide for other programmatic needs considered appropriate by the winter ice recreation advisory
8 board and the department.

9 (b) A grantee described in subsection (3)(a) may not receive more than \$300,000 per year.

10 (4) (a) The amount of 60% of any funds appropriated for the program must be used by the department
11 for large capital improvement grants of at least \$400,000 to build new winter ice recreation facilities in
12 communities lacking such facilities or to improve existing winter ice recreation facilities. The purpose of the capital
13 improvement grants is to provide statewide competition, recreation, and entertainment in winter ice sports for
14 youth.

15 (b) Among the communities that may receive at least \$400,000 in capital improvement grants are
16 Missoula, Kalispell, Butte, Shelby, Dillon, Bozeman, Lewiston, Helena, Great Falls, Havre, Billings, Miles City,
17 Sidney, Glasgow, Malta, Conrad, and Glendive.

18 (5) Consideration must be given to provide funds from the program to establish winter ice sports and
19 recreation facilities, leagues, and programs in Indian communities, including but not limited to Browning, Pablo,
20 Ronan, Crow Agency, and Busby.

21 (6) In consultation with the winter ice recreation advisory board, the department shall adopt rules to
22 implement the winter ice sports and recreation community grant program.

23 (7) The department shall develop reasonable outcome measures to determine the success of the winter
24 ice sports and recreation community grant program.

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26 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated to the department of fish, wildlife,
27 and parks \$18.7 million from the state general fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, for the purposes
28 described in [section 1].

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30 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a

1 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell
2 Chippewa tribe.

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4 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
5 integral part of Title 23, chapter 2, part 1, and the provisions of Title 23, chapter 2, part 1, apply to [section 1].

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7 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2013.

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