

Exhibit No. 7
Date: 2/23/15
Bill No. HB 315

Presentation:

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Bill Harris - H A R R I S - I represent House District 29. My district includes most of Fergus County including the towns of Lewistown, Grass Range, Winifred, and Roy, all of Petroleum County which includes the town of Winnett.

This morning I bring to you HB 315 "Revise the Montana Federate Mandates Act".

I am very aware, as you no doubt are, of the Constitutional balance of state and federal responsibility of power. I believe this bill goes a long way to help Montana maintain this Constitutional balance.

In 1995, the Montana Legislature passed the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. This has been the law for the past 20 years in Montana. However, because there was not an adequate avenue of implementation written into the law, it has not been

successfully exercised. This bill attempts to correct this problem by laying out the necessary steps to fulfill the intended purpose.

All new federal mandates received each year must be posted on the internet for public view.

The Governor and all state agencies must report to the legislature all federal mandates as they are received. This must be done before they can be included in the budget process or adopted as policy.

An efficient method of collecting and reporting federal mandates must be developed by the Governor and all agencies to inform the legislature in an accurate and timely manner.

And, the Governor must base the budget and recommend savings according to state statutes and the U.S. Constitution.

It will be the responsibility of the legislature to consider new federal mandates, accepting or denying them based on the U.S. Constitution, the Montana Constitution and state statutes.