

HOUSE BILL NO. 512

INTRODUCED BY D. MORTENSEN

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EASTERN MONTANA LABORATORY OF CRIMINALISTICS IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE LABORATORY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 44-3-301, MCA, is amended to read:

"44-3-301. Laboratory of criminalistics. (1) There is a laboratory of criminalistics within the department of justice. The laboratory's purpose is to perform analysis of specimens submitted by all Montana state, county, or city law enforcement officers and all state agencies and referral specimens from other states if accepted by the laboratory director.

(2) The laboratory's functions include analysis of toxicologic and criminalistic specimens which the laboratory director considers within the performance capability of the laboratory.

(3) The laboratory must have a western Montana branch located in Missoula County and an eastern Montana branch in Yellowstone County. Each branch must be capable of performing all purposes, duties, and functions required by this part.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Transfer of funds. On July 1, 2015, the state treasurer shall transfer \$5.8 million from the general fund to the long-range building program account in the capital projects fund type provided for in 17-7-205.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriations. (1) (a) There is appropriated \$5.8 million from the long-range building program account to the department of administration for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, for the construction of an eastern Montana branch of the laboratory of criminalistics in Yellowstone County.

(b) If the department of administration determines that leasing facilities for the laboratory would be more appropriate, the department is authorized to spend up to \$340,000 to secure appropriate leased facilities for the biennium and the remainder of the appropriation in subsection (1)(a) reverts to the general fund.

