

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING NATURAL RESOURCE LAWS;  
5 CREATING NATURAL RESOURCE-RELATED INVESTIGATION PROGRAMS; PROVIDING AN  
6 APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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10 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Hydrocarbon and geology investigation program -- purpose --**  
11 **grants.** (1) The bureau of mines and geology shall establish a hydrocarbon and geology investigation program  
12 to determine the existence of oil and gas deposits in the state. The purposes of the program are to determine if  
13 new methods of oil and gas production will improve production in existing oil and gas fields and to locate new  
14 fields containing oil and gas resources.

15 (2) In prioritizing areas to investigate, the bureau of mines and geology shall first consider counties  
16 where there exists historical evidence of oil and gas production, including the counties of Blaine, Carter,  
17 Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, McCone, Musselshell,  
18 Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Teton, Toole,  
19 Treasure, Valley, and Yellowstone.

20 (3) The bureau of mines and geology may start an investigation when it has sufficient funds to  
21 conduct an investigation or in other circumstances the bureau determines appropriate.

22 (4) (a) Within 1 year of starting an investigation, the bureau of mines and geology shall present the  
23 results of the investigation in the form of maps and text to:

- 24 (i) the counties included in the investigation;
- 25 (ii) the economic affairs interim committee; and
- 26 (iii) the environmental quality council.

27 (b) After the establishment of the program, the bureau of mines and geology shall report to the  
28 legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

1 (5) (a) To fulfill the requirements of subsections (1) and (2), the bureau of mines and geology may  
2 provide grants to faculty or students of any institution of higher education in the state in the areas of geology,  
3 geohydrology, civil engineering, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, mining engineering, and  
4 petroleum engineering.

5 (b) The bureau of mines and geology shall provide notice of available grants to all institutions of  
6 higher education in the state and post notice on its website.

7 (c) Grant recipients pursuant to this subsection (5) shall report progress to the bureau of mines and  
8 geology at least twice a year in a manner determined by the bureau.

9 (6) The bureau of mines and geology may accept appropriations, gifts, grants, and reimbursements to  
10 be used for the purposes of this section.

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Coal ash markets investigation program.** (1) The department of  
13 commerce shall establish a coal ash markets investigation program to determine the existence of economically  
14 viable markets to reuse coal ash.

15 (2) The department may start an investigation when it has sufficient funds to conduct an investigation  
16 or in other circumstances the department determines appropriate.

17 (3) (a) Within 1 year of starting an investigation, the bureau of mines and geology shall present the  
18 results of the investigation in the form of maps and text to:

- 19 (i) the economic interim affairs committee; and
- 20 (ii) the environmental quality council.

21 (b) After the establishment of the program, the department shall report to the legislature in  
22 accordance with 5-11-210.

23 (4) The department may accept appropriations, gifts, grants, and reimbursements to be used for the  
24 purposes of this section.

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26 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriations.** There is appropriated from the general fund for the  
27 biennium beginning July 1, 2021:

28 (1) \$20,000 to the bureau of mines and geology for the purposes of [section 1]; and

1           (2) \$25,000 to the department of commerce for the purposes of [section 2].

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3           NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified  
4 as an integral part of Title 90, chapter 2, and the provisions of Title 90, chapter 2, apply to [sections 1 and 2].

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6           NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2021.

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