

HOUSE BILL NO. 416  
INTRODUCED BY G. MACLAREN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING GENERAL FUND MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO BE USED FOR GRANTS TO ASSIST COUNTIES IN LAND USE PLANNING ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING AN ALLOCATION FORMULA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Local government planning assistance -- appropriation -- allocation.**

(1) There is appropriated to the department of commerce for the 2009 biennium \$3.5 million from the state general fund for the purpose of providing planning assistance grants to counties. The amount allocated to each county must be determined as provided in subsection (2).

(2) Each county must receive \$2 for each resident, increased by an amount equal to the percentage of population growth in the county in the last 10 years as determined by the most recent federal census estimates collected by the department. A county that has not experienced growth or that has had a decline in population must receive \$2 for each resident.

(3) Money received by counties must be used for land use planning, including but not limited to preparing and updating growth policies, updating subdivision regulations, minimizing backlogs of subdivision applications awaiting review, conducting land use planning studies, and any other activity in the county related to land use planning, as determined by the board of county commissioners in consultation with the county or city-county planning board if a planning board exists.

(4) Money that is not used by the department as provided in this section must be reverted to the general fund at the conclusion of the 2009 biennium.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2007.

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