

HOUSE BILL NO. 608
INTRODUCED BY A. OLSON

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TRANSFERRING MONEY FROM THE STATE GENERAL FUND TO THE ENDOWMENT FOR CHILDREN FUND; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 2-15-2214, MCA, there is a Montana Children's Trust Fund Board, established in 1985, consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor for 3-year terms; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 52-7-105, MCA, there is within the permanent fund type an endowment for children, the endowment is not subject to appropriation, and the purpose of the endowment is to provide a permanent source of funding to support the programs and services related to a broad range of child abuse and neglect primary prevention activities and family resource programs operated by nonprofit or public, community-based educational and service organizations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 52-7-105, MCA, the endowment may receive funds from appropriations; gifts, grants, and donations, from public or private sources; and other money credited or transferred to the endowment from any other fund or source; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 52-7-105, MCA, the State Treasurer must receive and shall deposit money in the endowment, the Board of Investments shall invest the money in the endowment, and only interest generated by the endowment is available for expenditure by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature has not transferred funds to the endowment for children to support child abuse and neglect prevention efforts statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Montana children's trust fund program receives a federal community-based child abuse and neglect prevention grant in the amount of approximately \$179,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, the Montana children's trust fund program receives approximately \$50,000 annually in state special revenue generated by the income tax checkoff and \$5 for every divorce filing in Montana; and

WHEREAS, the Montana children's trust fund program has served at-risk children and families statewide by providing a broad range of child abuse and neglect primary prevention programming, the main focus being parent education; and

WHEREAS, additional resources are needed to help at-risk families remain intact and out of the state child protective services system; and

WHEREAS, the child protective services system is overburdened by increasing caseloads and has limited

financial and human resources to serve the critical cases coming into the system.

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Fund transfer.** There is transferred \$1 million for the 2009 biennium from the state general fund to the endowment for children fund established under 52-7-105.

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

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