

SENATE BILL NO. 226  
INTRODUCED BY L. MOSS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT STATING ACCOUNTABILITY AS A PURPOSE AND POLICY OF THE STATE FOR SERVICES FOR OLDER MONTANANS; PROVIDING A PROCESS TO ACHIEVE ACCOUNTABILITY; AND AMENDING SECTION 52-3-503, MCA."

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

**Section 1.** Section 52-3-503, MCA, is amended to read:

**"52-3-503. Purpose and policy.** (1) The legislature finds that older Montanans constitute a valuable resource of this state and that their competence, experience, and wisdom must be used more effectively for the benefit of all Montanans.

(2) The legislature further finds that a complete range of services is not available in all areas of the state and that many Montanans lack access to the services that are available.

(3) The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state, subject to available funding, to provide a wide range of coordinated services to enable older Montanans to maintain an independent lifestyle, avoid unnecessary institutional care, and live in dignity.

(4) It is the intent of the legislature that available federal, state, regional, and local resources be used to strengthen the economic, social, and general well-being of older Montanans and that the state:

- (a) develop appropriate programs for older Montanans;
- (b) coordinate and integrate all levels of service, with emphasis on the whole person; and
- (c) promote alternative forms of service that will create options for older Montanans.

(5) The legislature declares that it is the policy of the state to ensure accountability, as provided in [section 2], in providing quality services in a cost-effective manner."

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Achieving accountability.** (1) The department shall achieve accountability in providing quality services in a cost-effective manner by:

- (a) establishing goals, responsibilities, and performance expectations for goals in providing services to the aged and to older Montanans as provided in Title 52, chapter 3, parts 1 and 5, and this part;
- (b) requiring periodic reporting of performance or progress toward stated goals by aging services and

area agencies on aging;

(c) establishing a continual process for the evaluation of all functions, the review of the evaluations, and the followup required to correct any deficiencies; and

(d) providing for feedback on the accountability process.

(2) The department shall adopt rules, as provided in 52-3-406, on the goals, responsibilities, performance expectations, reporting periods, and evaluation process to be followed.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 52, chapter 3, part 4, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 3, part 4, apply to [section 2].

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