

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 642

2 INTRODUCED BY M. BLASDEL

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SELECT COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY IN
5 GOVERNMENT; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND
6 PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND A TERMINATION 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. Select committee on efficiency in government -- membership.** (1) There
11 is a select committee on efficiency in government.

12 (2) The committee is composed of 12 members appointed as follows:

13 (a) six members of the house of representatives, three of whom must be appointed by the speaker of
14 the house and three of whom must be appointed by the minority leader; and

15 (b) six members of the senate, three of whom must be appointed by the president and three of whom
16 must be appointed by the minority leader.

17 (3) The president of the senate shall designate one of the members as the presiding officer of the
18 committee. The committee may elect any other officers it considers to be advisable.

19 (4) Committee members are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302.

20 (5) The legislative services division shall provide staff assistance to the committee, and the committee
21 may receive staff assistance from the legislative fiscal division, the legislative audit division, and the office of
22 budget and program planning. Agencies of the executive branch, including the Montana university system, and
23 the judicial branch shall provide information upon request. The committee may contract with other entities as
24 necessary to obtain adequate and necessary information and analysis and may request specific audits from the
25 legislative audit committee.

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27 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Committee duties -- evaluation of priority budgeting systems --**
28 **reporting.** (1) The committee shall:

29 (a) identify states that have implemented a priority budgeting system;

30 (b) analyze the approaches taken by the states identified to implement a priority budgeting system, the

1 types of performance measurement used by the states, how decision matrices are developed and implemented
2 to set priorities, and the results experienced;

3 (c) document long-term issues that will affect Montana's budget in the future, including federal mandates,
4 the potential of less federal funding, and the implications of funding public employee retirement plans and other
5 obligations owed by the state;

6 (d) in the context of anticipated, long-term pressures on the state budget, investigate and document the
7 advantages of the several states' priority budgeting systems as compared to the baseline budgeting system used
8 by Montana pursuant to Title 17, chapter 7;

9 (e) focus its attention on ascertaining the efficiency and effectiveness of state activities in three general
10 areas, as provided in subsection (2).

11 (2) The study must attempt to determine areas of efficiency and effectiveness in the following areas:

12 (a) health care, particularly matters of access, delivery, and affordability. Concepts for consideration
13 include but are not limited to:

14 (i) the objective measurement and value of the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho
15 (WWAMI) and the western interstate commission for higher education programs and an examination of ways to
16 increase the number of Montana medical students returning to Montana to practice medicine;

17 (ii) the identification of the core programs within the department of public health and human services that
18 need to be prioritized and funded;

19 (iii) the development of a strategy to address the financial and provider implications posed by the
20 significant increase (nearly doubling) in medicaid rolls that is projected to occur by 2017;

21 (iv) options for leveraging large information technology system replacements, such as the supplemental
22 nutritional assistance program (SNAP), temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), and the medicaid
23 management information system (MMIS), within the department of public health and human services to make
24 interaction among government agencies, providers, and beneficiaries more seamless and to ensure that proper
25 mechanisms are in place to reduce or eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse;

26 (v) current regulatory requirements affecting health care providers and consumers, including identifying
27 areas in which regulatory requirements can be modified to reduce their burden;

28 (vi) a review of statutes that address the licensing of health care professionals to ensure that the licensing
29 requirements are appropriate for current and future health care work practices; and

30 (vii) other concepts identified by the committee.

- 1 (b) technology, particularly matters of availability, access, development, deployment, use, and
2 integration. Concepts for consideration include but are not limited to:
- 3 (i) the elimination of dual data entry by government employees;
- 4 (ii) movement toward the concept of a paperless office to the maximum extent possible by eliminating
5 the use and storage of paper;
- 6 (iii) focusing on increasing internet-based services, including the use of electronic forms, and creating
7 financial incentives for the public to migrate to using internet-based services;
- 8 (iv) persuading individuals and entities to be responsible for the accuracy of the information and data that
9 they provide to governmental entities;
- 10 (v) ensuring that a cohesive plan exists for the state's information systems to be able to support new
11 technology initiatives, including the increased demand and need for videoconferencing;
- 12 (vi) evaluating the use of and, where appropriate, providing for the implementation of new delivery
13 channels, such as the expanded use of the internet and mobile computing with social network tools;
- 14 (vii) leveraging Montana's investment in the state's two data centers and related infrastructure;
- 15 (viii) the practicality of various private-public partnerships to deliver services and the steps to be taken
16 to enter or complete the partnerships; and
- 17 (ix) alternatives by which the concepts outlined in this subsection (2)(b) can be accomplished while
18 preserving the security and integrity of consumer and state data.
- 19 (c) natural resources, particularly incentives for and impediments to development, adding value,
20 transporting, and conservation. Concepts for consideration include but are not limited to:
- 21 (i) the elimination of redundant regulatory processes;
- 22 (ii) the methods and means to facilitate the timely review and authorization of projects, including mitigating
23 postreview and postauthorization administrative or legal challenges;
- 24 (iii) alternatives for strengthening the threshold of legal standing for purposes of challenging procedural
25 or substantive permitting decisions;
- 26 (iv) options for creating and using electronic forms and authorizations to streamline project startup,
27 reporting, monitoring, continuation, and expansion;
- 28 (v) alternatives for implementing accountability in regulatory decisions;
- 29 (vi) the establishment of one process leading to the issuance of a permit. The process should include all
30 governmental entities involved in permitting a project and ensure efficient and effective public participation

1 whenever required or advisable.

2 (vii) the development and implementation of an incentive-based tax system that provides predictability
3 and stability for new and continued growth of natural resource development; and

4 (viii) the evaluation of the needs and requirements to facilitate investment and financing of natural
5 resource development projects in Montana.

6 (3) In order to ensure that state resources are being used effectively and efficiently, the committee may:

7 (a) evaluate the coordination of projects and programs within the state, including projects and programs
8 that involve the sharing, distribution, or interaction of resources within state government and between state
9 government and federal, tribal, or local jurisdictions;

10 (b) determine the legislative purpose of specific projects and programs and whether the purpose is being
11 accomplished in an efficient and effective manner. If the committee determines that the legislative purpose is not
12 being accomplished, the committee shall report the basis of the determination and recommend, with proposed
13 legislation, a statutory solution to achieve the legislative purpose or terminate the project or program.

14 (c) determine the adequacy of public notice and opportunity for comment and participation in project or
15 program design or administration;

16 (d) determine the transparency of project or program design and implementation;

17 (e) evaluate the implementation and integrity of projects and programs;

18 (f) determine the extent to which duplication and waste is prevented under current law and administration
19 and recommend, through proposed legislation, how to further prevent or eliminate duplication and waste; and

20 (g) within the context of efficiency and effectiveness and as determined to be advisable by the
21 committee, examine other state matters of project or program design, implementation, or administration.

22 (4) At its first meeting, the committee shall establish its mission, goals, and objectives and specific
23 problems to be addressed. The committee shall also establish a work plan and maintain a website to foster and
24 ensure participation, accountability, and transparency. The website must:

25 (a) list the committee membership and contact information and the committee's stated mission, goals,
26 and objectives;

27 (b) include a calendar of committee activities, including meeting dates, times, and venues;

28 (c) identify the projects and programs under committee examination;

29 (d) provide or provide a link to relevant economic, financial, demographic, and other information provided
30 to the committee;

1 (e) establish and maintain links to federal, state, and local government websites that contain information
2 on opportunities for citizen participation and input; and

3 (f) provide any other information that the committee considers relevant.

4 (5) (a) The committee shall report to the legislative council, the legislative finance committee, and the
5 legislative audit committee if requested or if considered advisable by the committee.

6 (b) The committee shall prepare a final report of its findings and conclusions and of its recommendations
7 and shall prepare draft legislation whenever appropriate. The committee shall submit the final report to the
8 governor and the 63rd legislature, as provided in 5-11-210.

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10 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$458,000 from the general fund to
11 the legislative services division for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, to support the activities of the select
12 committee on efficiency in government established in [section 1].

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14 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is
15 effective on passage and approval.

16 (2) [Section 3] is effective July 1, 2011.

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18 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Termination.** [This act] terminates December 31, 2012.

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