

HOUSE BILL NO. 353

INTRODUCED BY E. MCCLAFFERTY

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT OF STATE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS IN MONTANA; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide education, health, and nutrition services with parental involvement to low-income children; and

WHEREAS, study after study demonstrates that children who participate in Head Start and Early Head Start programs are more likely to stay and succeed in school and become productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, enrolling children in high-quality early childhood education is a sound investment, by one estimate returning \$8 for every \$1 spent; and

WHEREAS, in Montana, there are 20 Head Start programs and 9 Early Head Start programs funded to serve 4,790 children; and

WHEREAS, the current low level of federal funding for Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Montana severely limits the programs' support for enrollees and the ability to offer staff competitive salaries and benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Services Bureau within the Department of Public Health and Human Services is intimately familiar with the policies, practices, and forms of collaboration that make Head Start and Early Head Start programs so successful.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. State supplemental funding of head start and early head start -- role of department of public health and human services. (1) There is state supplemental funding of nonsectarian head start and early head start programs.

(2) The department of public health and human services shall:

(a) establish procedures for granting to each head start and early head start program \$300 per enrollee



1 or, if the number of programs or enrollees changes, a prorated amount of the appropriation provided by the
2 legislature per enrollee;

3 (b) establish grantee guidelines for financial reporting and for performance reporting that conforms with
4 the standards provided in 45 CFR, parts 1301 through 1311; and

5 (c) adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including rules for financial reporting and oversight.

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7 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$1,437,000 from the state general
8 fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, to the department of public health and human services for the
9 purpose provided in [section 1].

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11 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2013.

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