

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 579

2 INTRODUCED BY R. HAGAN

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MILITARY ECONOMIC IMPACT TASK FORCE
5 CONCERNING RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND FORCE
6 STRUCTURES TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTANA; ALLOCATING
7 THE TASK FORCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES;
8 PROVIDING FOR TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP, EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT, AND DUTIES; PROVIDING
9 APPROPRIATIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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11 WHEREAS, the Montana National Guard provides more than \$182 million in economic impetus to the
12 State of Montana, and the total federal economic impetus of the Montana Department of Military Affairs and the
13 National Guard to the State of Montana is over \$196 million; and

14 WHEREAS, Malmstrom Air Force Base provides more than \$610 million in economic impetus to the State
15 of Montana, airmen stationed at Malmstrom own an estimated 1,116 homes in Montana, military construction and
16 service contracts provide more than \$34 million to local developers, the base spends more than \$10.4 million for
17 utilities, and Malmstrom services more than 7,000 miles of roads in Montana, which benefits Montana's
18 commerce; and

19 WHEREAS, the federal sequestration, fiscal cliff, base realignment and closure activities, and other
20 cost-cutting measures will put current military missions and assets in Montana and, therefore, Montana's
21 economic well-being at risk now and well into the future; and

22 WHEREAS, states with military missions and assets have formed statewide advocacy groups to help
23 protect existing military force structures in their states, identify new missions, educate the public, and promote
24 economic development tied to the military, and Montana is the last state to lack such a statewide organization,
25 which clearly affects Montana's ability to be successful as national cuts to the military are implemented.

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

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29 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Montana military economic impact task force -- membership --**
30 **compensation -- duties.** (1) There is a Montana military economic impact task force consisting of five voting and

1 two nonvoting members, as follows:

2 (a) The voting members are:

3 (i) the adjutant general, who shall represent the Montana national guard;

4 (ii) a member appointed by the governor to represent Montana's business community;

5 (iii) a member appointed by the highest ranking active component military commander on active duty in
6 Montana to be a liaison to the task force if the commander agrees to make the appointment. If the commander
7 is unwilling or unable to make the appointment, the member must be appointed by the governmental body of the
8 county where the military has the highest economic impact in the state.

9 (iv) a veteran of the armed forces appointed by the governor who is knowledgeable about active and
10 reserve component force structures and how various force structures may be configured in Montana to support
11 national defense missions as well as state disaster and emergency services; and

12 (v) a member with knowledge of the employment challenges experienced by national guard and federal
13 reserve members during and after their service, to be appointed by the Montana department of military affairs.

14 (b) The nonvoting members are:

15 (i) a state senator appointed by the president of the senate;

16 (ii) a state representative appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

17 (2) (a) The task force shall elect a presiding officer from among its voting members. Task force meetings
18 are subject to the open meetings laws provided in Title 2, chapter 3, part 2.

19 (b) The task force is allocated to the department of commerce for administrative purposes only, as
20 provided in 2-15-121, which shall provide staff and administrative support to the task force.

21 (c) Task force members are entitled to reimbursement for expenses as provided in 2-18-501 through
22 2-18-503.

23 (3) The purpose of the task force is to:

24 (a) advocate for retention and development of military missions, installations, and force structures that
25 provide economic development opportunities in Montana; and

26 (b) educate the public, legislature, and congressional delegation about the economic impact of current
27 and future military development in Montana.

28 (4) In fulfilling its purpose under subsection (3), the task force shall:

29 (a) examine potential base realignment and closure actions;

30 (b) study the economic impact that the active and reserve component military missions and force

1 structures in Montana have on Montana's economy;

2 (c) develop a strategic plan for how to position Montana with respect to potential base realignment and
3 closure actions so that Montana has the best possible opportunity to retain and develop future military economic
4 development opportunities;

5 (d) provide regular updates on task force activities to the governor, the president of the senate, and the
6 speaker of the house;

7 (e) prepare reports and presentations consistent with its purpose and duties;

8 (f) lobby members of congress and act as a liaison with civilian and military personnel engaged in making
9 decisions concerning current and potential military missions and active and reserve component force structures
10 in Montana; and

11 (g) work and coordinate with other local and state military advocacy organizations as necessary.

12 (5) A member's term of office is 4 years. A legislative member may continue to serve for the 4 years even
13 if the member's legislative term expires. A member appointed to fill a vacancy may serve only for the remainder
14 of the previous member's term. A member may be reappointed.

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16 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriations.** There is appropriated from the general fund to the
17 department of commerce:

18 (1) \$250,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2015, for the conduct of the study described in [section
19 1(4)]; and

20 (2) \$163,000 in each year of the biennium ending June 30, 2015, for the purposes of implementing
21 [section 1].

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23 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
24 integral part of Title 2, chapter 15, part 18, and the provisions of Title 2, chapter 15, part 18, apply to [section 1].

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26 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2013.

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