

HOUSE BILL NO. 633

INTRODUCED BY R. EHLE

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SELECT COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Select committee on efficiency in government -- membership.** (1) There is a select committee on efficiency in government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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 the general  
10 areas 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 coverage, access, delivery, and affordability;

13 (b) technology, particularly matters of availability, access, development, deployment, use, and  
14 integration. Concepts for consideration include but are not limited to:

15 (i) the elimination of dual data entry by government employees;

16 (ii) movement toward the concept of a paperless office to the maximum extent possible by eliminating  
17 the use and storage of paper;

18 (iii) focusing on increasing internet-based services, including the use of electronic forms, and creating  
19 financial incentives for the public to migrate to using internet-based services;

20 (iv) persuading individuals and entities to be responsible for the accuracy of the information and data that  
21 they provide to governmental entities;

22 (v) ensuring that a cohesive plan exists for the state's information systems to be able to support new  
23 technology initiatives, including the increased demand and need for videoconferencing;

24 (vi) evaluating the use of and, where appropriate, providing for the implementation of new delivery  
25 channels, such as the expanded use of the internet and mobile computing with social network tools;

26 (vii) leveraging Montana's investment in the state's two data centers and related infrastructure;

27 (viii) the practicality of various private-public partnerships to deliver services and the steps to be taken  
28 to enter or complete the partnerships; and

29 (ix) alternatives by which the concepts outlined in this subsection (2)(b) can be accomplished while  
30 preserving the security and integrity of consumer and state data.

- 1 (c) employment and economic development programs, including the potential for efficiencies in:  
2 (i) the business processes used within the department of labor and industry and the department of  
3 commerce;  
4 (ii) the use of technology to process job postings and applications, license applications and renewals,  
5 unemployment and workers' compensation insurance premiums, and other tasks; and  
6 (iii) the variety of programs to create jobs and provide job training, including combining programs and  
7 program administration into a one-stop center for the programs; and  
8 (d) the administrative rules process governed by the Montana Administrative Procedures Act, including  
9 the legal requirements and limitations, the roles, requirements, and limitations of the legislature, executive  
10 agencies, and stakeholders, and the timelines associated with rulemaking.

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

- 14 (a) list the committee membership and contact information and the committee's stated mission, goals,  
15 and objectives;  
16 (b) include a calendar of committee activities, including meeting dates, times, and venues;  
17 (c) identify the projects and programs under committee examination;  
18 (d) provide or provide a link to relevant economic, financial, demographic, and other information provided  
19 to the committee;  
20 (e) establish and maintain links to federal, state, and local government websites that contain information  
21 on opportunities for citizen participation and input; and  
22 (f) provide any other information that the committee considers relevant.

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

25 (b) The committee shall prepare a final report of its findings and conclusions and of its recommendations  
26 and shall prepare draft legislation whenever appropriate. The committee shall submit the final report to the  
27 governor and to the 64th legislature as provided in 5-11-210.

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29 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$80,000 from the general fund to the  
30 legislative services division for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, to support the activities of the select

1 committee on efficiency in government established in [section 1].

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

5 (2) [Section 3] is effective July 1, 2013.

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7 NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Termination.** [This act] terminates December 31, 2014.

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