

HOUSE BILL NO. 155

INTRODUCED BY M. FUNK

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE STATE ARCHIVIST TO DEVELOP A DIGITAL ARCHIVES; APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THE PURPOSE OF HIRING A CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP A DIGITAL ARCHIVES PLAN; AMENDING SECTION 22-3-203, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Montana has declared in 22-3-201, MCA, "that it is the public policy of the state of Montana that noncurrent records of permanent value to the state and to local governments should be preserved and protected"; and

WHEREAS, the state archivist has the duty to preserve noncurrent records of permanent value to the state pursuant to 22-3-203, MCA; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of state and local government records are created and exist in electronic format; and

WHEREAS, records maintained by electronic means allow for greater efficiency and increased accessibility; and

WHEREAS, records maintained by electronic means are vulnerable to technological obsolescence; and

WHEREAS, the state archives in the Montana historical society currently lacks the means to accept and manage records in electronic format.

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

Section 1. Section 22-3-203, MCA, is amended to read:

"22-3-203. Preservation of noncurrent records of permanent value. (1) The state archivist shall preserve noncurrent records of permanent value to the state and is responsible for the ultimate preservation of local government records of permanent value. Upon request, the archivist shall assist and advise in the establishment of records management programs in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government and in local governments, with due regard to the functions of the officers and agencies involved.

(2) The state archivist may develop a digital archives in order to more effectively carry out the duties of



1 subsection (1)."

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3 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation. (1) There is appropriated \$208,000 from the general fund
4 to the Montana historical society for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015.

5 (2) The appropriation is for the purpose of hiring a consultant to develop a digital archives preservation
6 plan that can be used to ensure that the Montana state archives can collect, preserve, and provide access to
7 state and local government records of permanent value in electronic format.

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9 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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