

HOUSE BILL NO. 244

INTRODUCED BY J. ESSMANN, D. ANKNEY, G. CUSTER

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN APPROPRIATION FOR POTENTIAL LITIGATION TO IMPROVE AND PROTECT THE STATE'S ACCESS TO AND GROWTH IN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS AND OTHER LITIGATION; PLACING CONDITIONS ON THE APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation. (1) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, there is appropriated \$1 million from the general fund to the department of justice for litigation to improve and protect the state's access to and growth in domestic and international markets for its products and natural resources INCLUDING ENERGY AND OTHER MAJOR LITIGATION. ~~These~~ AT LEAST \$200,000 OF THESE funds may be expended only for actions that the attorney general determines will likely establish, benefit, improve, or protect the state's access to domestic or international markets and may be used at the discretion of the attorney general to cover the costs and fees of those actions, including evaluating, commencing, or participating in legal actions or proceedings in state and federal courts or administrative proceedings.

(2) Any funds not expended or encumbered in the biennium must revert to the general fund.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WILL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR ON ANY AMOUNTS EXPENDED OR ENCUMBERED IN THAT FISCAL YEAR FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1).

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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