

HOUSE BILL NO. 575

INTRODUCED BY T. BURNETT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE GRANT TRANSPARENCY ACT; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AND REQUIRING A SEARCHABLE WEBSITE FOR TRACKING GRANT INFORMATION."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Short title.** [Sections 1 through 4] may be cited as the "Grant Transparency Act".

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of [sections 1 through 4] is to establish transparency in the use of taxpayer funds ~~granted to nonstate entities~~ DISTRIBUTED AS GRANTS.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Definitions.** As used in [sections 1 through 4], the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Designated state agency" means:
  - (a) the department of administration;
  - (b) the department of agriculture;
  - (c) the arts council;
  - (d) the office of the state auditor;
  - (e) the board of regents;
  - (f) the department of commerce;
  - (g) the department of corrections;
  - (h) the department of environmental quality;
  - (i) the department of fish, wildlife, and parks;
  - (j) the governor's office;
  - (k) the department of labor and industry;
  - (l) the department of livestock;
  - (m) the department of military affairs;

- 1 (n) the Montana board of crime control;
- 2 (o) the department of natural resources and conservation;
- 3 (p) the commissioner of political practices;
- 4 (q) the office of the state public defender;
- 5 (r) the board of public education;
- 6 (s) the department of public health and human services;
- 7 (t) the office of public instruction;
- 8 (u) the public service commission;
- 9 (v) the department of revenue;
- 10 (w) the school for the deaf and blind;
- 11 (x) the secretary of state;
- 12 (y) the state fund;
- 13 (z) the state library;
- 14 (aa) the department of transportation;
- 15 (bb) the office of the commissioner of higher education; or
- 16 (cc) the department of justice.
- 17 (2) "Grant" means state funds disbursed by a designated state agency as a federal or state grant.
- 18 (3) "Grantee" means ~~a~~ ANY STATE OR nonstate entity that receives a grant.
- 19 (4) "State funds" means any money appropriated by the state legislature, any money disbursed by a
- 20 designated state agency under spending authority authorized by the state legislature, or any federal money that
- 21 is passed through a designated state agency.
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- 23 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Grant reporting -- searchable website.** (1) Following the close of each
- 24 fiscal year, a designated state agency shall prepare a report that identifies all grants disbursed by the agency in
- 25 the previous fiscal year.
- 26 (2) The report must provide the following information:
- 27 (a) the amount of each grant;
- 28 (b) the date of the grant;
- 29 (c) the entity receiving the grant;
- 30 (d) the duration of the grant; and

1 (e) the purpose of the grant.

2 (3) A designated state agency that prepares a report in accordance with subsection (1) shall submit the  
3 report to the office of budget and program planning on or before August 1 of each year.

4 (4) The office of budget and program planning shall prepare a report that compiles and summarizes the  
5 reports that the office of budget and program planning receives in accordance with subsection (3).

6 (5) The office of budget and program planning shall submit the report required by subsection (4) to the  
7 state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee on or before September 1 of each year. The report  
8 must be submitted in an electronic format.

9 (6) The DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION SHALL POST THE report required by subsection (4) ~~shall be posted~~  
10 to a searchable website so that a user may search for grant information by agency, grantee, topic, and title.

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be codified  
13 as an integral part of Title 17, chapter 1, and the provisions of Title 17, chapter 1, apply to [sections 1 through 4].

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