



AN ACT REVISING LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL REPORTING AND AUDITING REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING THAT REVENUE OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN EXCESS OF AN AMOUNT ESTABLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET CAUSES AN AUDIT EVERY 2 YEARS; LIMITING THE AMOUNT THAT CERTAIN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY FOR FILING AN AUDIT REPORT OR FINANCIAL REPORT; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-7-503 AND 2-7-514, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Section 1. Section 2-7-503, MCA, is amended to read:

"2-7-503. Financial reports and audits of local government entities. (1) The governing body or managing or executive officer of a local government entity, other than a school district or associated cooperative, shall ensure that a financial report is made every year. A school district or associated cooperative shall comply with the provisions of 20-9-213. The financial report must cover the preceding fiscal year, be in a form prescribed by the department, and be completed and submitted to the department for review within 6 months of the end of the reporting period.

(2) The department shall prescribe a uniform reporting system for all local government entities subject to financial reporting requirements, other than school districts. The superintendent of public instruction shall prescribe the reporting requirements for school districts.

(3) (a) The governing body or managing or executive officer of each local government entity receiving revenue or financial assistance in the period covered by the financial report that is in excess of \$500,000 and that is also in excess of the threshold dollar amount established by the director of the office of management and budget pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 7502(a)(3), regardless of the source of revenue or financial assistance, shall cause an audit to be made at least every 2 years. The audit must cover the entity's preceding 2 fiscal years. The audit must commence within 9 months from the close of the last fiscal year of the audit period. The audit must be completed and submitted to the department for review within 1 year from the close of the last fiscal year covered

by the audit.

(b) The governing body or managing or executive officer of a local government entity that does not meet the criteria established in subsection (3)(a) shall at least once every 4 years, if directed by the department, or, in the case of a school district, if directed by the department at the request of the superintendent of public instruction, cause a financial review, as defined by department rule, to be conducted of the financial statements of the entity for the preceding fiscal year.

(4) An audit conducted in accordance with this part is in lieu of any financial or financial and compliance audit of an individual financial assistance program that a local government is required to conduct under any other state or federal law or regulation. If an audit conducted pursuant to this part provides a state agency with the information that it requires to carry out its responsibilities under state or federal law or regulation, the state agency shall rely upon and use that information to plan and conduct its own audits or reviews in order to avoid a duplication of effort.

(5) In addition to the audits required by this section, the department may at any time conduct or contract for a special audit or review of the affairs of any local government entity referred to in this part. The special audit or review must, to the extent practicable, build upon audits performed pursuant to this part.

(6) The fee for the special audit or review must be a charge based upon the costs incurred by the department in relation to the special audit or review. The audit fee must be paid by the local government entity to the state treasurer and must be deposited in the enterprise fund to the credit of the department.

(7) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section subjects the local government entity to the penalties provided in 2-7-517."

Section 2. Section 2-7-514, MCA, is amended to read:

"2-7-514. Filing of audit report and financial report. (1) Completed audit reports must be filed with the department. Completed financial reports must be filed with the department as provided in 2-7-503(1). The state superintendent of public instruction shall file with the department a list of school districts subject to audit under 2-7-503(3). The list must be filed with the department within 6 months after the close of the fiscal year.

(2) At the time that the financial report is filed or, in the case of a school district, when the audit report is filed with the department, the local government entity shall pay to the department a filing fee. The department shall charge a filing fee to any local government entity required to have an audit under 2-7-503, which fee must

be based upon the costs incurred by the department in the administration of this part. Notwithstanding the provisions of 20-9-343, the filing fees for school districts required by this section must be paid by the office of public instruction. The department shall adopt the fee schedule by rule based upon the local government entities' revenue amounts, except that a local government meeting the requirements of 2-7-503(3)(b) shall pay only the administrative fee set by the department in rule.

(3) Copies of the completed audit and financial reports must be made available by the department and the local government entity for public inspection during regular office hours."

Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
SB 0372, originated in the Senate.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2017.

SENATE BILL NO. 372

INTRODUCED BY F. MOORE

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