

HOUSE BILL NO. 661

INTRODUCED BY N. BALLANCE

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A LEGISLATIVE STUDY OF STATE LABS AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN; PROVIDING PARAMETERS AND OUTCOMES FOR THE STUDY; SPECIFYING MEMBERS AND DUTIES; PROVIDING FOR FUND TRANSFERS AND 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. Legislative study of state labs at Montana state university-Bozeman.

(1) The legislative finance committee shall direct a study of the long-term future of and possible efficiencies to be gained from state-supported labs on the Montana state university campus in Bozeman, including:

- (a) the veterinary diagnostic lab;
- (b) the wool lab;
- (c) the wildlife lab; and
- (d) the seed lab.

(2) (a) The study analysis must be conducted by a bipartisan subcommittee consisting of the following:

- (i) two members of the legislative finance committee;
- (ii) two members of the economic affairs interim committee; and
- (iii) two members of the environmental quality council.

(b) The committees and the environmental quality council shall elect their representatives to serve on the subcommittee.

(3) The subcommittee shall develop and analyze at least three economically viable proposals for each lab identified in subsection (1), including:

- (a) necessary infrastructural changes and upgrades, their costs, and potential funding sources;
- (b) organizational changes and any financial efficiencies they would create; and
- (c) statutory changes needed to facilitate proposed infrastructural or organizational changes.

(4) Subject to direction provided by the legislative finance committee, the study may include but is not limited to:

- 1 (a) onsite visits to the labs and interviews with relevant state and university personnel;
- 2 (b) comparison with labs in other states that provide similar services, including North Dakota, South
3 Dakota, Wyoming, Washington, Texas, and California;
- 4 (c) onsite visits to labs in other states; and
- 5 (d) comparison with labs that provide services unrelated to natural resources.
- 6 (6) The subcommittee may work with engineering and architectural consultants as needed.
- 7 (7) The appropriation provided for [section 3] may be used for any purpose of the study, including but not
8 limited to:
- 9 (a) conducting onsite lab visits;
- 10 (b) contracting with consultants pursuant to subsection (6);
- 11 (c) providing study-related training for legislators and legislative staff; and
- 12 (d) publication and communication costs.

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14 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Fund transfers.** By July 5, 2017, the state treasurer shall make the
15 following transfers to a state special revenue account to be administered by the legislative fiscal division:

- 16 (1) \$33,000 from the animal health state special revenue account;
- 17 (2) \$33,000 from per capita fees;
- 18 (3) \$33,000 from the Montana university system research director account; and
- 19 (4) \$23,500 from the motorboat account.

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21 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$122,500 for the biennium
22 beginning July 1, 2017, to the legislative fiscal division from the state special revenue account administered by
23 the legislative fiscal division for the purposes of the study as set forth in [section 1].

24 (2) By December 15, 2018, the state treasurer shall transfer any unencumbered or unexpended funds
25 in the state special revenue account referenced in subsection (1) on November 30, 2018, back to the accounts
26 from which the funds were transferred pursuant to [section 2] in an amount proportionate to the amount
27 transferred from the accounts.

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29 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Contingent voidness.** (1) If [this act] is passed and approved and does
30 not contain an appropriation, [this act] is void.

1 (2) If the appropriation in [this act] is vetoed, then [this act] is void.

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is
4 effective on passage and approval.

5 (2) [Sections 2 and 3] are effective July 1, 2017.

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7 NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Termination.** [This act] terminates December 31, 2018.

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