

HOUSE BILL NO. 67

INTRODUCED BY L. JONES

BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING LAWS; ESTABLISHING A BASE PLUS FORMULA THAT IS ADJUSTED FOR ACTUAL FTE IN WEIGHTED CATEGORIES TO BE USED BEGINNING WITH THE 2025 BIENNIUM; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING A STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT AND PROVIDING A STATUTORY APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 17-7-142, 17-7-502, 20-15-309, 20-15-310, AND 20-15-312, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES."

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

**Section 1.** Section 17-7-142, MCA, is amended to read:

**"17-7-142. Calculation of reversions for funded resident enrollment growth in Montana university system and community colleges.** (1) The reversion calculation in this section is effective only in those years when the legislature funds resident enrollment growth based ~~upon~~ on resident enrollment projections and requires a reversion by the Montana university system ~~or a community college~~ if the resident enrollment projections are not met.

(2) The reversion must be calculated based ~~upon~~ on the marginal funding for each resident FTE identified in the general appropriations act.

(3) The total reversion is calculated based ~~upon~~ on the difference between the FTE resident enrollment projection and the actual FTE resident enrollment or the FTE resident enrollment projection and the prior 3-year average FTE resident enrollment, whichever is lower."

**Section 2.** Section 17-7-502, MCA, is amended to read:

**"17-7-502. Statutory appropriations -- definition -- requisites for validity.** (1) A statutory appropriation is an appropriation made by permanent law that authorizes spending by a state agency without

1 the need for a biennial legislative appropriation or budget amendment.

2 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), to be effective, a statutory appropriation must comply with  
3 both of the following provisions:

4 (a) The law containing the statutory authority must be listed in subsection (3).

5 (b) The law or portion of the law making a statutory appropriation must specifically state that a  
6 statutory appropriation is made as provided in this section.

7 (3) The following laws are the only laws containing statutory appropriations: 2-17-105; 5-11-120; 5-11-  
8 407; 5-13-403; 5-13-404; 7-4-2502; 10-1-108; 10-1-1202; 10-1-1303; 10-2-603; 10-2-807; 10-3-203; 10-3-310;  
9 10-3-312; 10-3-314; 10-3-802; 10-3-1304; 10-4-304; 15-1-121; 15-1-218; 15-31-1004; 15-31-1005; 15-35-108;  
10 15-36-332; 15-37-117; 15-39-110; 15-65-121; 15-70-101; 15-70-130; 15-70-433; 16-11-119; 16-11-509; 17-3-  
11 106; 17-3-212; 17-3-222; 17-3-241; 17-6-101; 17-7-215; 18-11-112; 19-3-319; 19-3-320; 19-6-404; 19-6-410;  
12 19-9-702; 19-13-604; 19-17-301; 19-18-512; 19-19-305; 19-19-506; 19-20-604; 19-20-607; 19-21-203; 20-8-  
13 107; 20-9-534; 20-9-622; 20-9-905; section 5; 20-26-617; 20-26-1503; 22-1-327; 22-3-116; 22-3-117; 22-3-  
14 1004; 23-4-105; 23-5-306; 23-5-409; 23-5-612; 23-7-301; 23-7-402; 30-10-1004; 37-43-204; 37-50-209; 37-54-  
15 113; 39-71-503; 41-5-2011; 42-2-105; 44-4-1101; 44-12-213; 44-13-102; 50-1-115; 53-1-109; 53-6-148; 53-9-  
16 113; 53-24-108; 53-24-206; 60-11-115; 61-3-321; 61-3-415; 67-1-309; 69-3-870; 69-4-527; 75-1-1101; 75-5-  
17 1108; 75-6-214; 75-11-313; 75-26-308; 76-13-151; 76-13-150; 76-17-103; 76-22-109; 77-1-108; 77-2-362; 80-  
18 2-222; 80-4-416; 80-11-518; 80-11-1006; 81-1-112; 81-1-113; 81-7-106; 81-7-123; 81-10-103; 82-11-161; 85-2-  
19 526; 85-20-1504; 85-20-1505; [ 85-25-102]; 87-1-603; 90-1-115; 90-1-205; 90-1-504; 90-6-331; and 90-9-306.

20 (4) There is a statutory appropriation to pay the principal, interest, premiums, and costs of issuing,  
21 paying, and securing all bonds, notes, or other obligations, as due, that have been authorized and issued  
22 pursuant to the laws of Montana. Agencies that have entered into agreements authorized by the laws of  
23 Montana to pay the state treasurer, for deposit in accordance with 17-2-101 through 17-2-107, as determined  
24 by the state treasurer, an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest as due on the bonds or notes have  
25 statutory appropriation authority for the payments. (In subsection (3): pursuant to sec. 10, Ch. 360, L. 1999, the  
26 inclusion of 19-20-604 terminates contingently when the amortization period for the teachers' retirement  
27 system's unfunded liability is 10 years or less; pursuant to sec. 73, Ch. 44, L. 2007, the inclusion of 19-6-410  
28 terminates contingently upon the death of the last recipient eligible under 19-6-709(2) for the supplemental

1 benefit provided by 19-6-709; pursuant to sec. 27, Ch. 285, L. 2015, and sec. 1, Ch. 292, L. 2015, the inclusion  
 2 of 53-9-113 terminates June 30, 2021; pursuant to sec. 6, Ch. 291, L. 2015, the inclusion of 50-1-115  
 3 terminates June 30, 2021; pursuant to sec. 5, Ch. 383, L. 2015, the inclusion of 85-25-102 is effective on  
 4 occurrence of contingency; pursuant to sec. 6, Ch. 423, L. 2015, the inclusion of 22-3-116 and 22-3-117  
 5 terminates June 30, 2025; pursuant to sec. 33, Ch. 457, L. 2015, the inclusion of 20-9-905 terminates  
 6 December 31, 2023; pursuant to sec. 12, Ch. 55, L. 2017, the inclusion of 37-54-113 terminates June 30, 2023;  
 7 pursuant to sec. 4, Ch. 122, L. 2017, the inclusion of 10-3-1304 terminates September 30, 2025; pursuant to  
 8 sec. 55, Ch. 151, L. 2017, the inclusion of 30-10-1004 terminates June 30, 2021; pursuant to sec. 1, Ch. 213, L.  
 9 2017, the inclusion of 90-6-331 terminates June 30, 2027; pursuant to secs. 5, 8, Ch. 284, L. 2017, the  
 10 inclusion of 81-1-112, 81-1-113, and 81-7-106 terminates June 30, 2023; pursuant to sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 2017,  
 11 the inclusion of 22-1-327 terminates July 1, 2023; pursuant to sec. 10, Ch. 374, L. 2017, the inclusion of 76-17-  
 12 103 terminates June 30, 2027; pursuant to sec. 5, Ch. 50, L. 2019, the inclusion of 37-50-209 terminates  
 13 September 30, 2023; pursuant to sec. 1, Ch. 408, L. 2019, the inclusion of 17-7-215 terminates June 30, 2029;  
 14 pursuant to secs. 11, 12, and 14, Ch. 343, L. 2019, the inclusion of 15-35-108 terminates June 30, 2027;  
 15 pursuant to sec. 7, Ch. 465, L. 2019, the inclusion of 85-2-526 terminates July 1, 2023; and pursuant to sec. 5,  
 16 Ch. 477, L. 2019, the inclusion of 10-3-802 terminates June 30, 2023.)"

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18 **Section 3.** Section 20-15-309, MCA, is amended to read:

19 **"20-15-309. ~~Proposed budget~~ Biennial budgeting.** The board of trustees of a community college  
 20 district shall submit ~~a proposed budget enrollment projections and other data necessary for calculating the state~~  
 21 appropriation under 20-15-310 to the board of regents by August 45 1 immediately preceding each regular  
 22 legislative session. ~~The proposed budget shall be for the next biennium and in a form approved by the state~~  
 23 ~~budget director and the commissioner of higher education and shall be calculated in the same manner as the~~  
 24 ~~operating budget described in 20-15-312. The board of regents shall review the proposed budget and all its~~  
 25 ~~components and make any changes it determines necessary.~~ By the following September 1, the board of  
 26 regents shall submit its proposal for funding the community colleges to the budget director and the legislative  
 27 fiscal analyst."

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1           **Section 4.** Section 20-15-310, MCA, is amended to read:

2           **"20-15-310. Appropriation -- definitions.** (1) As used in [section 5] and this section, the following  
3 definitions apply:

4           (a) "Adjusted base" means the state appropriation to a community college in the base year minus any  
5 one-time-only legislative appropriations and appropriations for auditing purposes, as well as any reversion  
6 pursuant to 17-7-142 before July 1, 2023, and adjusted for actual weighted FTE as described in [section 5],  
7 then multiplied by the inflationary factor for the second year of the current biennium.

8           (b) "Base year" means the first year of the current biennium.

9           (c) "Concurrent enrollment" means the form of dual enrollment through which a high school student  
10 receives instruction in a community college course from a high school instructor.

11           (d) "CTE FTE" means the FTE derived from students in courses determined by the commissioner of  
12 higher education to be career and technical education, based on national standard course classifications. For  
13 the purposes of the community college funding formula, FTE generated from a dual enrollment CTE course  
14 must be included in the calculation of CTE FTE and not in the concurrent enrollment or early college FTE  
15 categories.

16           (e) "Dual enrollment" means the circumstance in which a high school student is enrolled in both the  
17 student's high school and in a community college.

18           (f) "Early college" means the form of dual enrollment through which a high school student receives  
19 instruction in a community college course from a faculty member of the community college.

20           (g) "FTE" or "full-time equivalent" means the total number of undergraduate resident student credit  
21 hours in an academic year divided by 30.

22           (h) "FTE categories" means CTE FTE, general education FTE, the FTE derived from concurrent  
23 enrollment, and the FTE derived from early college. For the purposes of the community college funding formula,  
24 FTE generated from a dual enrollment CTE course must be included in the calculation of CTE FTE and not in  
25 the concurrent enrollment or early college FTE categories.

26           (i) "FTE decrease funding factor" means a dollar figure for each year of the ensuing biennium that is  
27 determined by the legislature and must be specified in the appropriations act appropriating funds to the  
28 community colleges for each biennium.

1           (j) "FTE increase funding factor" means a dollar figure for each year of the ensuing biennium that is  
2 determined by the legislature and must be specified in the appropriations act appropriating funds to the  
3 community colleges for each biennium.

4           (k) "FTE weighting factor" means a multiplier that is applied to changes in resident FTE in each of the  
5 FTE categories and that is determined by the legislature and must be specified in the appropriations act  
6 appropriating funds to the community colleges for each biennium.

7           (l) "General education FTE" means the FTE derived from non-dual-enrollment students in courses  
8 determined by the commissioner of higher education to not be career and technical education, based on  
9 national standard course classifications.

10           (m) "Inflationary factor" means the percentage calculated pursuant to 20-9-326, not to exceed 3% and  
11 subject to final determination by the legislature as specified in the appropriations act appropriating funds to the  
12 community colleges for each biennium.

13           (n) "Weighted FTE" means the sum of the FTE in each FTE category multiplied by the corresponding  
14 FTE weighting factor.

15           (+) (2) It is the intent of the legislature that all community college spending, other than from restricted  
16 funds, designated funds, or funds generated by an optional, voted levy, be governed by the provisions of this  
17 part and the state general appropriations act.

18           (±) (3) ~~(a)~~—The state general fund appropriation for each community college must be determined as  
19 follows:

20           (a) For the first year of the next biennium, multiply the adjusted base by the inflationary factor for the  
21 first year of the next biennium, and to this number add the result of multiplying:

22           (i) any change in the projected weighted resident FTE changes for the first year of the next biennium  
23 from the actual weighted resident FTE in the base year; and

24           (ii) the FTE decrease funding factor or the FTE increase funding factor as appropriate for the first year  
25 of the next biennium.

26           (b) For the second year of the next biennium, multiply the adjusted base by the inflationary factor for  
27 the first year of the next biennium, multiply this result by the inflationary factor for the second year of the next  
28 biennium, and to this number add the result of multiplying:

1            (i) any change in the projected weighted resident FTE changes for the second year of the next  
2 biennium from the actual weighted resident FTE in the base year; and

3            (ii) the FTE decrease funding factor or the FTE increase funding factor as appropriate for the second  
4 year of the next biennium.

5            ~~(i) multiply the variable cost of education per student by the full-time equivalent student count and add~~  
6 ~~the budget amount for the fixed cost of education; and~~

7            ~~(ii) multiply the total in subsection (2)(a)(i) by the state share.~~

8            ~~(b) The variable cost of education per student, the budget amount for fixed costs, and the state share~~  
9 ~~for each community college must be determined by the legislature. The state share for each community college,~~  
10 ~~expressed as a percentage, and the variable cost of education per student must be specified in the~~  
11 ~~appropriations act appropriating funds to the community colleges for each biennium.~~

12            ~~(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), the state general fund appropriation for each full-time~~  
13 ~~equivalent resident student at a community college may not exceed the weighted average of state support per~~  
14 ~~resident full-time equivalent student among community colleges and 2-year and 4-year campuses of the~~  
15 ~~Montana university system in the most recent year plus an amount equal to two standard deviations of the most~~  
16 ~~recent 6 years of weighted averages of state support per resident full-time equivalent student among~~  
17 ~~community colleges and 2-year and 4-year campuses of the Montana university system.~~

18            ~~(4) If enrollment for a community college is less than 200 full-time equivalent resident students for 2~~  
19 ~~consecutive fiscal years, the maximum state general fund appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year for that~~  
20 ~~community college may not exceed the lesser of:~~

21            ~~(a) the weighted average of state support per resident full-time equivalent student within the Montana~~  
22 ~~university system; or~~

23            ~~(b) the weighted average of state support per resident full-time equivalent student within the~~  
24 ~~community college system.~~

25            ~~(5) At any time enrollment at a community college falls below 200 full-time equivalent resident~~  
26 ~~students, the community college shall submit a business plan to the board of regents for review, approval, and~~  
27 ~~monitoring. The business plan must include identifying what measures the community college will take to~~  
28 ~~increase enrollment. The plan must be submitted to the board of regents within 1 month after enrollment falls~~

1 ~~below 200 full-time equivalent resident students.~~

2 ~~(6) The student count may not include those enrolled in community service courses as defined by the~~  
3 ~~board of regents.~~

4 ~~(7) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:~~

5 ~~( a) "Adjusted cost of education" means the cost of education minus any reversion calculated~~  
6 ~~under 17-7-142, expenditures from one-time only legislative appropriations, and expenditures funded by local~~  
7 ~~mill levies provided for in 2-9-212 and 20-9-501 in excess of the 2012 mill levy levels.~~

8 ~~(b) "Cost of education" means the actual costs incurred by the community colleges during the budget~~  
9 ~~base fiscal year, as reported on the current unrestricted operating fund schedule that is statutorily required to~~  
10 ~~be submitted to the board of regents.~~

11 ~~(c) "Fixed cost of education" means that portion of the adjusted cost of education, as determined by~~  
12 ~~the legislature, that is not influenced by increases or decreases in student enrollment.~~

13 ~~(d) "Variable cost of education per student" means that portion of the adjusted cost of education, as~~  
14 ~~determined by the legislature, that is subject to change as a result of increases or decreases in student~~  
15 ~~enrollment, divided by the actual student enrollment during the budget base fiscal year."~~

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17 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Annual adjustments based on actual weighted FTE -- special**  
18 **revenue account -- statutory appropriation.** (1) There is a community college FTE adjustment account in the  
19 state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102. The account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-  
20 7-502, to the commissioner of higher education for the purposes described in this section. Any reversions from  
21 community colleges pursuant to 17-7-142 must be deposited in the account.

22 (2) Beginning at the end of fiscal year 2024, at the end of each fiscal year the commissioner of higher  
23 education, utilizing the FTE decrease funding factor and the FTE increase funding factor as appropriate, shall  
24 determine the fiscal impacts resulting from the weighted FTE projections on which that fiscal year's state  
25 appropriation to a community college was based, pursuant to 20-15-310, and the fiscal impacts that would have  
26 resulted had the actual weighted FTE for that fiscal year been used to determine that fiscal year's state  
27 appropriation and shall determine any overpayment or underpayment to the community college for that fiscal  
28 year.

1 (3) The commissioner shall distribute any underpayment as determined under subsection (2) to a  
2 community college from the community college FTE adjustment account by October 15 of the current year.

3 (4) A community college receiving an overpayment determined under subsection (2) shall return the  
4 overpayment to the commissioner by October 15 of the current year for deposit in the community college FTE  
5 adjustment account.

6  
7 **Section 6.** Section 20-15-312, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"20-15-312. Calculation and approval of operating budget.** (1) Annually by September 1, the board  
9 of trustees of a community college shall submit an operating budget to the board of regents for their review. The  
10 operating budget of the community college must be financed in the following manner:

11 (a) The general fund appropriation must be determined pursuant to 20-15-310.

12 (b) The mandatory levy amount ~~must represent a specific percentage of the combined total of the~~  
13 ~~fixed cost of education and the variable cost of education, as those terms are defined in 20-15-310, and as~~  
14 ~~determined by the legislature. This percentage must be specified as a percentage of the operating budget for~~  
15 each community college by the board of trustees of the district and approved by the board of regents.

16 (c) The funding obtained pursuant to subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) plus the revenue derived from  
17 tuition and fee schedules approved by the board of regents and unrestricted income from any other source is  
18 the amount of the unrestricted budget. A detailed expenditure schedule for the unrestricted budget must be  
19 submitted to the board of regents for their review and approval.

20 (d) The amount estimated to be raised by the voted levy must be detailed separately in an  
21 expenditure schedule.

22 (e) The spending of each restricted or designated funding source must be detailed separately in an  
23 expenditure schedule.

24 (f) The expenditure schedules provided in subsections (1)(c) through (1)(e) represent the total  
25 operating budget of the community college.

26 (2) The board of regents shall review the proposed total operating budget and all its components and  
27 make any changes it determines necessary. The board of trustees of a community college district shall operate  
28 within the limits of the operating budget approved by the board of regents."



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**NEW SECTION. Section 7. Transition.** The legislature intends that fiscal years 2022 and 2023 be governed by the current community college funding formula and that revisions to the formula in [this act] be used in the appropriations process for fiscal year 2024 and thereafter. For the 2025 biennium and each subsequent biennium, the community colleges shall provide FTE projections and other necessary data in order to implement the changes to the funding formula as described in 20-15-309, 20-15-310, and [section 5].

**NEW SECTION. Section 8. Codification instruction.** [Section 5] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 20, chapter 15, part 3, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 15, part 3, apply to [section 5].

**NEW SECTION. Section 9. Effective dates – applicability.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), [this act] is effective July 1, 2021.

(2) [Sections 1 and 6] are effective July 1, 2023.

(3) [Section 5] is effective January 1, 2023, and applies to community college appropriations and budgets for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2023.

- END -