

**HOUSE JOURNAL
ADDENDUM
67TH LEGISLATURE**

Helena, Montana
2021

House Chambers
State Capitol

BILLS (J. Hinkle, Chair):

4/30/2021

Correctly enrolled: **HB 632.**

Signed by the Speaker at 8:30 a.m., April 30, 2021: **HB 7, HB 66, HB 247, HB 426, HB 449, HB 602, HB 610, HB 624, HB 644, HB 696.**

Signed by the Chief Clerk of the House at 8:33 a.m., April 30, 2021: **HB 7, HB 66, HB 247, HB 426, HB 449, HB 602, HB 610, HB 624, HB 644, HB 696.**

Signed by the President at 9:30 a.m., April 30, 2021: **HB 7, HB 66, HB 247, HB 426, HB 449, HB 602, HB 610, HB 624, HB 644, HB 696.**

Signed by the Speaker at 12:40 p.m., April 30, 2021: **HB 632.**

Signed by the Chief Clerk of the House at 12:45 p.m., April 30, 2021: **HB 632.**

Signed by the President at 1:10 p.m., April 30, 2021: **HB 632.**

Delivered to the Governor for approval at 1:50 p.m., April 30, 2021: **HB 7, HB 66, HB 247, HB 426, HB 449, HB 602, HB 610, HB 624, HB 632, HB 644, HB 696.**

BILLS (J. Hinkle, Chair):

5/3/2021

Correctly enrolled: **HB 4, HB 6, HB 8, HB 9, HB 10, HB 12, HB 14, HB 20, HB 46, HB 63, HB 112, HB 115, HB 158, HB 178, HB 181, HB 221, HB 230, HB 231, HB 235, HB 249, HB 267, HB 276, HB 277, HB 279, HB 318, HB 325, HB 330, HB 357, HB 358, HB 365, HB 382, HB 403, HB 430, HB 435, HB 439, HB 444, HB 447, HB 459, HB 462, HB 472, HB 481, HB 483, HB 495, HB 497, HB 498, HB 501, HB 502, HB 503, HB 504, HB 522, HB 525, HB 527, HB 530, HB 537, HB 541, HB 553, HB 554, HB 559, HB 572, HB 576, HB 578, HB 593, HB 606, HB 614, HB 620, HB 625, HB 630, HB 637, HB 655, HB 658, HB 667, HB 671, HB 681, HB 688, HB 691, HB 704, HB 709, HJR 14, HJR 16, HJR 30.**

BILLS (J. Hinkle, Chair):

5/4/2021

Correctly enrolled: **HB 5, HB 11, HB 72, HB 92, HB 188, HB 191, HB 257, HB 303, HB 340, HB 397, HB 506, HB 555, HB 599, HB 629, HB 648, HB 651, HB 656, HB 660, HB 661, HB 663, HB 678, HB 689, HB 693, HB 701, HB 702, HB 705, HJR 27, HJR 29, HJR 31, HJR 34, HJR 35, HJR 36, HJR 37, HJR 39, HJR 40, HJR 44, HJR 45, HJR 47, HJR 48, HJR 49.**

Signed by the President at 2:40 p.m., May 4, 2021: **HB 4, HB 5, HB 6, HB 8, HB 9, HB 10, HB 11, HB 12, HB 14, HB 20, HB 46, HB 63, HB 72, HB 112, HB 115, HB 158, HB 178, HB 181, HB 191, HB 221, HB 230, HB 231, HB 235, HB 249, HB 257, HB 267, HB 276, HB 277, HB 279, HB 318, HB 325, HB 330, HB 340, HB 357, HB 358, HB 365, HB 382, HB 397, HB 403, HB 430, HB 435, HB 439, HB 444, HB 447, HB 459, HB 462, HB 472, HB 481, HB 483, HB 495, HB 497, HB 498, HB 501, HB 502, HB 503, HB 504, HB 506, HB 522, HB 525, HB 527, HB 530, HB 537, HB 541, HB 553, HB 554, HB 555, HB 559, HB 572,**

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HB 576, HB 578, HB 593, HB 599, HB 606, HB 614, HB 620, HB 625, HB 629, HB 630, HB 637, HB 648, HB 651, HB 655, HB 656, HB 658, HB 660, HB 661, HB 663, HB 667, HB 671, HB 678, HB 681, HB 688, HB 689, HB 691, HB 693, HB 702, HB 704, HB 705, HB 709, HJR 14, HJR 16, HJR 27, HJR 29, HJR 30, HJR 31, HJR 34, HJR 35, HJR 36, HJR 37, HJR 39, HJR 40, HJR 44, HJR 45, HJR 47, HJR 48, HJR 49.

Delivered to the Governor for approval at 3:16 p.m., May 4, 2021: **HB 4, HB 5, HB 6, HB 8, HB 9, HB 10, HB 11, HB 12, HB 14, HB 20, HB 46, HB 63, HB 72, HB 112, HB 115, HB 158, HB 178, HB 181, HB 191, HB 221, HB 230, HB 231, HB 235, HB 249, HB 257, HB 267, HB 276, HB 277, HB 279.**

Delivered to the at 4:21 p.m., May 4, 2021: **HB 318, HB 330, HB 340, HB 357, HB 358, HB 365, HB 382, HB 397, HB 403, HB 430, HB 435, HB 439, HB 444, HB 447, HB 459, HB 462, HB 472, HB 481, HB 483, HB 495, HB 497, HB 498, HB 501, HB 502, HB 503, HB 504, HB 506, HB 522, HB 525, HB 527, HB 530, HB 537, HB 541, HB 553, HB 554, HB 555, HB 559, HB 572, HB 576, HB 578, HB 593, HB 599.**

Delivered to the Governor for approval at 4:50 p.m., May 4 2021: **HB 606, HB 614, HB 620, HB 625, HB 629, HB 630, HB 637, HB 648, HB 651, HB 655, HB 656, HB 658, HB 660, HB 661, HB 663, HB 667, HB 671, HB 678, HB 681, HB 688, HB 689, HB 691, HB 693, HB 702, HB 704, HB 705, HB 709.**

BILLS (J. Hinkle, Chair): 5/6/2021

Delivered to the Secretary of State at 1:30 p.m., May 6, 2021: **HB 325, HJR 14, HJR 16, HJR 27, HJR 29, HJR 30, HJR 31, HJR 34, HJR 35, HJR 36, HJR 37, HJR 39, HJR 40, HJR 44, HJR 45, HJR 47, HJR 48, HJR 49.**

BILLS (J. Hinkle, Chair): 5/7/2021

Correctly enrolled: **HB 2.**

BILLS (J. Hinkle, Chair): 5/11/2021

Signed by the Speaker at 9:55 a.m., May 11, 2021: **HB 2, HB 92, HB 188, HB 303, HB 701.**

Signed by the Chief Clerk of the House at 10:01 a.m., May 11, 2021: **HB 2, HB 92, HB 188, HB 303, HB 701.**

Signed by the President at 10:40 a.m., May 11, 2021: **HB 2, HB 92, HB 188, HB 303, HB 701.**

Delivered to the Governor for approval at 11:30 a.m., May 11, 2021: **HB 2, HB 92, HB 188, HB 303, HB 701.**

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MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt:

On Thursday, April 29, 2021, I signed the following bills:

House Bill 73 - B. Usher
House Bill 90 - D. Lenz
House Bill 155 - D. Lenz
House Bill 264 - R. Fitzgerald
House Bill 333 - B. Usher
House Bill 362 - R. Fitzgerald
House Bill 398 - D. Lenz
House Bill 445 - B. Usher
House Bill 574 - D. Lenz
House Bill 598 - K. Whitman

The bills have been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

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Dear Speaker Galt:

On Friday, April 30, 2021, I signed the following bills:

House Bill 67 - L. Jones
House Bill 129 - D. Bedey
House Bill 146 - B. Mercer
House Bill 179 - D. Bedey
House Bill 229 - J. Gillette
House Bill 260 - S. Berglee
House Bill 302 - J. Kassmier
House Bill 341 - M. Regier
House Bill 416 - D. Lenz
House Bill 429 - L. Jones
House Bill 450 - S. Gunderson
House Bill 468 - P. Fielder
House Bill 475 - D. Skees
House Bill 479 - K. Sullivan
House Bill 496 - B. Mercer
House Bill 520 - M. Marler
House Bill 539 - B. Usher
House Bill 549 - S. Kerns
House Bill 590 - S. Kerns
House Bill 616 - M. Hopkins
House Bill 632 - F. Garner
House Bill 647 - S. Galloway
House Bill 665 - B. Ler

The bills have been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 3, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

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Dear Speaker Galt:

On Monday, May 3, 2021, I signed **House Bill 131** -D. Bedey.

The bill has been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt:

On Monday, May 3, 2021, I signed the following bills:

House Bill 206 - D. Bedey

House Bill 423 - D. Lenz

House Bill 478 - D. Harvey

The bills have been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 7, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

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Dear Speaker Galt:

On Friday, May 7, 2021, I signed the following bills:

House Bill 7 - M. Hopkins
House Bill 66 - T. Moore
House Bill 112 - J. Fuller
House Bill 233 - F. Anderson
House Bill 247 - M. Bertoglio
House Bill 257 - J. Hinkle
House Bill 273 - D. Skees
House Bill 336 - B. Ler
House Bill 426 - D. Lenz
House Bill 449 - F. Garner
House Bill 602 - M. Stromswold
House Bill 610 - R. Whiteman Pena
House Bill 641 - S. Gist
House Bill 644 - J. Windy Boy
House Bill 696 - B. Usher
House Bill 702 - J. Carlson

The bills have been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 10, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt:

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, I signed the following bills:

House Bill 380 - K. Seekins-Crowe
House Bill 464 - M. Regier

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The bills have been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 10, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt and President Blasdel:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 624, "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BUSINESS TASK FORCE ON CHILD CARE; ESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP; ESTABLISHING DUTIES; REQUIRING A REPORT; ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE".

HB 624 directs the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) to convene and facilitate a business task force on child care to examine the effects of child care affordability and accessibility on the workforce and Montana businesses. This task force would be funded by a special revenue account consisting of grants, gifts, and donations from public and private sources, and be required to develop and submit a report of its finding and recommendations to the governor and the legislature.

Our state has long faced unique child care challenges, and my administration is acutely aware of the toll that inadequate child care takes on Montana families and our economy. As we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and incentivize Montanans to return to work, the need for child care reforms and supports could not be greater - which is why I have already directed members of my cabinet to strategize and collaborate with those most impacted by our

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child care gap to proactively build a system that works for our families and businesses.

Montana has never had more resources available to increase access to and invest in child care, ultimately reducing a major barrier to workforce reentry. Currently, the state is using federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), CARES II, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) resources to continue funding child care for essential workers and to provide business stabilization funding to child care providers so that they can return to full operations. Furthermore, my administration will continue to work in partnership with the legislature to ensure that certain ARPA funds are prioritized in child care deserts for one-time equipment and necessary infrastructure, property improvements, worksite child care, licensing costs, and employee training and professional development.

The legislature and I have a tremendous opportunity to increase access to adequate and affordable child care in Montana. Rather than confirm through further study the flaws within Montana's child care system and the failures of past administrations to remedy these flaws, we must act now. I look forward to joining forces with the sponsor to meet the intent of her legislation.

For these reasons, I veto HB 624.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 13, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt:

On Wednesday, May 12, 2021, I signed the following bills:

House Bill 4 - D. Bartel
House Bill 5 - L. Jones
House Bill 6 - M. Hopkins
House Bill 8 - M. Hopkins
House Bill 9 - M. Hopkins

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House Bill 10 - K. Holmlund
House Bill 11 - W. McKamey
House Bill 12 - M. Hopkins
House Bill 14 - M. Hopkins
House Bill 20 - B. Beard
House Bill 46 - D. Bedey
House Bill 63 - J. Dooling
House Bill 72 - F. Garner
House Bill 115 - B. Mercer
House Bill 178 - D. Bedey
House Bill 181 - K. Zolnikov
House Bill 191 - M. Hopkins
House Bill 221 - A. Buckley
House Bill 231 - M. Regier
House Bill 267 - N. Duram
House Bill 276 - M. Caferro
House Bill 279 - S. Berglee

The bills have been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt:

On Tuesday, May 11, 2021, I signed **House Bill 303** - J. Kassmier.

The bill has been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

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May 14, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt:

On Friday, May 14, 2021, I signed the following bills:

House Bill 230 - M. Regier
House Bill 249 - M. Regier
House Bill 318 - K. Holmlund
House Bill 330 - L. Jones
House Bill 340 - W. Galt
House Bill 357 - J. Hamilton
House Bill 358 - B. Mercer
House Bill 365 - J. Trebas
House Bill 382 - W. Curdy
House Bill 403 - T. Running Wolf
House Bill 430 - K. Whitman
House Bill 435 - B. Mercer
House Bill 439 - S. Galloway
House Bill 444 - E. Buttrey
House Bill 447 - B. Mercer
House Bill 459 - D. Lenz
House Bill 462 - M. Stromswold
House Bill 472 - M. Regier
House Bill 481 - S. Gunderson
House Bill 483 - C. Knudsen
House Bill 495 - M. Caferro
House Bill 497 - B. Mercer
House Bill 498 - S. Gunderson
House Bill 501 - J. Trebas
House Bill 502 - L. Sheldon-Galloway
House Bill 503 - D. Lenz
House Bill 504 - C. Knudsen
House Bill 506 - P. Fielder
House Bill 525 - E. Buttrey
House Bill 527 - F. Nave
House Bill 530 - W. McKamey
House Bill 537 - B. Mercer

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House Bill 541 - S. Galloway
House Bill 553 - J. Patelis
House Bill 554 - J. Kassmier
House Bill 555 - M. Regier
House Bill 559 - B. Mercer
House Bill 572 - D. Skees
House Bill 576 - J. Schillinger
House Bill 578 - T. Moore
House Bill 599 - S. Gunderson
House Bill 606 - P. Fielder
House Bill 614 - M. Caferro
House Bill 620 - A. Regier
House Bill 625 - D. Lenz
House Bill 629 - D. Fern
House Bill 630 - D. Bedey
House Bill 637 - S. Berglee
House Bill 648 - J. Kassmier
House Bill 651 - M. Bertoglio
House Bill 655 - E. Buttrey
House Bill 658 - G. Frazer
House Bill 660 - J. Kassmier
House Bill 661 - J. Kassmier
House Bill 663 - B. Ler
House Bill 667 - R. Marshall
House Bill 671 - D. Bedey
House Bill 678 - D. Bartel
House Bill 681 - J. Kassmier
House Bill 689 - J. Dooling
House Bill 693 - B. Mercer
House Bill 704 - E. Buttrey
House Bill 705 - E. Buttrey
House Bill 709 - M. Regier

The bills have been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

I have returned **House Bill 691** - D. Lenz with a line item veto.

I vetoed the following bills:

House Bill 158 - C. Hinkle
House Bill 235 - T. Welch
House Bill 277 - B. Mercer
House Bill 397 - J. Kassmier

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House Bill 522 - E. Buttrey
House Bill 688 - J. Kassmier

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt and President Blasdel:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 158, "AN ACT CREATING A COVID-19 RESPONSE STUDY COMMISSION; ESTABLISHING THE MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSION; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING FOR CONTINGENT VOIDNESS; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND A TERMINATION DATE."

HB 158 authorizes the establishment of a COVID-19 Response Study Commission tasked with reviewing all statutes, administrative rules, and other regulations suspended or revised during the pandemic, as well as assessing whether these suspensions or revisions proved beneficial to Montana and its citizens. The bill also appropriates \$50,000 from the general fund for purposes of launching and running the commission.

As Montanans continue to confront the pandemic, the light at the end of the tunnel gets brighter and brighter. My administration is already conducting a top-to-bottom regulatory review of state agencies through our Red Tape Relief Task Force. While I appreciate the sponsor sharing my goal of identifying and eliminating excessive, outdated, and unnecessary regulations, I see no reason to form a pandemic-specific study commission and look backwards. I encourage Rep. Hinkle to partner with us as we continue our existing initiative to streamline government in the interest of all Montanans.

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For these reasons, I veto HB 158.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt and President Blasdel:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 235, "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM LAWS; CREATING THE NUTRITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM FOR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO BUY ELIGIBLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES; UPDATING TERMINOLOGY TO MATCH FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM LANGUAGE; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 39-51-403, 39-51-2208, 39-71-118, 40-4-215, 45-6-312, 50-49-103, 53-2-108, 53-2-201, 53-2-211, 53-2-606, 53-2-901, 53-2-902, 53-2-903, 53-3-115, AND 53-4-717, MCA; REPEALING SECTION 53-2-904, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE".

HB 235 appropriates \$95,000 to establish a new state-administered nutrition incentive grant program to increase the purchasing power of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) beneficiaries with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Also known as "Double SNAP," this program would provide another means for Montanans to get a 1:1 dollar match for SNAP spending at participating organizations that sell healthy, local food. For example, an individual that spends \$5 on SNAP-eligible foods at a participating farmer's market would receive another \$5 to purchase more fruits and vegetables.

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While I support the intent of the sponsor's legislation to promote the purchase of nutritious foods, HB 235 would effectively duplicate existing federal initiatives at the expense of the Montana taxpayer. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which oversees SNAP, has a well- established nutrition incentive program from which Montana and our SNAP participants already benefit. At my direction, both the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Public Health and Human Services will continue work with our federal partners to ensure that Montana's existing Double SNAP program is operating at maximum efficiency and leveraging all existing federal tools and resources.

Furthermore, as we determine how to best allocate federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars, my administration and the legislature have an opportunity to reevaluate our SNAP program and consider reforms, including initiatives that encourage beneficiaries to use SNAP dollars on fresh fruits and vegetables. The federal government has made substantial investments in our nutrition assistance programs over the course of the pandemic, and ARPA appropriated approximately \$11 million to support Montana's SNAP system. USDA also made an additional \$75 million available to nutrition incentive program grantees. I urge beneficiaries to purchase healthier foods, including fresh Montana produce, which they can already do with this funding.

For these reasons, I veto HB 235.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt and President Blasdel:

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In accordance with the power vested in me as the Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 277 "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO PROVIDING FOR A STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS FOR CERTAIN GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES; REQUIRING DEPARTMENTS TO PRODUCE STRATEGIC PLANS AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC COMMENT PROVISIONS; LIMITING JUDICIAL REVIEW; REQUIRING THAT ONLY EXISTING RESOURCES MAY BE USED; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 2-4-102, MCA; REPEALING SECTIONS 2-15-2221, 2-15-2222, 2-15-2223, 2-15-2224, 2-15-2225, AND 2-15-2226, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

I support the goal of HB 277 to try to improve the performance of state government. Accountability, efficient performance and good customer service are goals that I ran on and am committed to achieving by bringing tried and true private sector processes to state government.

However, HB 277 would impose another bureaucratic process on state agencies that would: create more administrative work; add costs; in part, duplicate processes I am already implementing; result in a rigid, three-year plan that does not coincide with the two and four-year strategic planning cycles of the legislature and the governor's office, and not provide for nimble adjustments (that are now common in private sector planning) to changing circumstances.

HB 277 would require state agencies to go through both an employee comment process and a formal public comment process to produce three-year formal strategic plans, performance measures, and annual performance reports. Three years is neither tied to the two-year legislative session cycle nor the gubernatorial election cycle, diminishing its relevance as legislative and gubernatorial elections occur and priorities change.

In addition, the day after I took the oath of office, I issued Executive Order 1-2021 creating the Red Tape Relief Advisory Council to conduct a comprehensive, top-to-bottom review of regulations in every state agency. Burdensome, unnecessary red tape ties up our small businesses, farms, and ranches. These regulations cost time and money. Ultimately, Montana consumers bear the burden with higher prices on goods and services, and the biggest burden falls on low and middle-income Montanans who are trying to make ends meet. To make Montana more competitive, we need to get a better handle on our regulatory scheme, and it's one of my top priorities. The council I have established will leave no stone unturned as they identify excessive, outdated, and unnecessary regulations, and will seek input from the Legislature, Montana citizens, business owners, and other appropriate stakeholders. Contrary to the work of the Council, HB 277 will add more bureaucratic burden on state agencies.

Given the steps I am taking to make government more accountable, efficient, and customer service oriented, HB 277 would distract the same key agency leaders from taking these steps and divert their time and resources to "check the boxes" required by HB 277 to produce a

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three-year document that may be infrequently used, especially after the next election. Although its goal is to improve performance, ironically, HB 277 would also cause more bureaucracy and cost to implement. HB 277 has a fairly significant fiscal impact and would cause work that will be, in part, redundant to work already being done, and of diminishing value as elections occur and goals evolve with new officials and changing circumstances in Montana. The executive branch needs a more flexible planning and measurement process than a rigid three-year process with taxpayers footing the bill.

The intent of HB 277 is laudable, but my administration is already strongly committed to using more nimble processes, rooted in the private sector, to transform how state government conducts its business for the benefit of the people of Montana.

For these reasons, I am vetoing HB 277.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt and President Blasdel:

In accordance with the power vested in me as the Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 397 "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING TAX CREDITS; PROVIDING THAT THE CREDITS MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST THE INCOME TAX OR INSURANCE PREMIUM TAXES; AMENDING SECTION 15-30-2303, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

Considering current and ongoing federal funding for affordable housing development and rental assistance, HB 397 is unnecessary legislation that would have an unjustified long-term fiscal

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impact on the state of Montana. Montana already receives federal tax credit allocations of \$3.2 million annually through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. The latest data from the Montana Board of Housing shows that 238 projects have received a total of \$622 million in federal tax credit allocations since 1990. Montana also receives about \$53 million annually in Section 8 funding to help low-income Montanans with rental assistance - an amount which does not include additional CARES Act funding.

As passed, HB 397 would cost \$45 million for the state credits obligated from 2022 to 2026. But there is more to the fiscal picture than meets the eye. This bill ties the Montana credits directly to the level of available federal housing credits. Several federal bills and other proposals like the American Jobs Plan would expand federal credits substantially. Specifically, S.98, the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act, would expand federal credits, if HB 397 were to become law, by an initial \$8 million per year every year for 5 years, resulting in a lifecycle cost of \$165 million to the state. A less expansive proposal, S. 1136, the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, would raise the total cost in the same period to over \$80 million. The state credit's high and unconstrained linkage to the federal credit removes state control of the program's costs and poses an unanticipated risk to fiscal stability.

I believe the most effective way to address housing affordability challenges in our growing state is to reduce the panoply of regulations faced by housing development. That is why I have signed numerous bills that reform the subdivision and sanitation review process, in particular the expedited subdivision review established by SB 161. More needs to be done and I am committed to working with my agencies and stakeholders in the housing sector to identify additional ways to reduce regulatory burdens that drive up the cost of new housing development.

For these reasons, I am vetoing HB 397.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

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The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt and President Blasdel:

In accordance with the power vested in me as the Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 522 "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MILITARY STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC IMPACT TASK FORCE CONCERNING RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND FORCE STRUCTURES TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTANA; ALLOCATING THE TASK FORCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP, EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT, AND DUTIES; CREATING A STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

Montana plays a critical role in our national defense and the presence of military force structure in Montana provides a substantial economic benefit to our communities. I am impressed by the efforts of our military communities to preserve current military missions and attract new ones.

Unfortunately, I hesitate to support legislation that creates yet another task force that establishes a bureaucratic apparatus at considerable expense to taxpayers. Private organizations and other stakeholders have provided ample support for Montana's military missions around the state. They have done yeoman's work to ensure that our military missions have a promising future here.

This session, I have supported several bills to make Montana friendlier to military members and make Montana a more attractive location for future military missions. I pledge to be a partner to our military communities to help them preserve the missions they have and attract new ones.

For the reasons stated, I am vetoing HB 522.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

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May 14, 2021
The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt and President Blasdel:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 688, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INTERIM STUDY OF WINEMAKING IN MONTANA; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE."

HB 688 establishes a committee on Montana Viticulture with a member appointed by the Senate President, House Speaker, and Minority Leaders in each Chamber in consultation with the Presiding Officers of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees. The bill also appropriates \$25,000 from the general fund for purpose of running the Committee. The Committee is charged with examining wine production, marketing, and federal regulations impacting the viticulture industry in Montana and reporting the results to the 68th Legislature.

Montana's viticulture industry is vibrant and expanding. Our state produces some of the most unique and high-quality wines in the region, contributing to Montana's rich agriculture portfolio. While I support the bill's intent to grow Montana's viticulture industry, the technical note on the bill highlights the uncertainty of its implementation, reading, "The Division may not be able to absorb the research, legal, secretarial, and other support duties required to support this committee."

Given the uncertainty of the technical note and HB 688's cost to Montana taxpayers, I believe there are more effective and less expensive ways to accomplish our shared goal of expanding Montana's viticulture industry.

For these reasons, I veto HB 688.
Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

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May 14, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby line-item veto the appropriation in House Bill 691 "AN ACT ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SYSTEM; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ON THE USE OF EXISTING FUNDING; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 53-20-204; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

HB 691 seeks to establish response services to help individuals with developmental disabilities minimize or avoid instances of crisis. I support this policy. However, this bill provides a partial appropriation for its execution while failing to reduce the appropriation in HB 2 for the same purpose. This line-item veto of Section 3 ensures that funding is appropriated only once.

In particular, the appropriation and coordination language contained in Sections 3 and 6 in HB 691 was intended to coordinate with HB 2 and reduce HB 2 funding to the level needed to fund HB 691. During legislative executive action, the appropriation in Section 3 of HB 691 was amended multiple times, whereas the coordination language contained in Section 6 of HB 691 was not amended to coordinate properly with HB 2.

By this line-item veto of the appropriation contained in Section 3 of HB 691, the duplicate funding will be eliminated as resources exist in HB 2 for the Department of Public Health and Human Services to sufficiently fund the intent of HB 691.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

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May 19, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt:

On Tuesday, May 18, 2021 I signed **House Bill 701** - M. Hopkins.

The bill has been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 21, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt:

On Thursday, May 20, 2021 I signed the following bills:

House Bill 2 - L. Jones and
House Bill 92 - K. Kelker

The bills have been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

I vetoed **House Bill 188** - D. Loge.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

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May 20, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt and President Blasdel:

In accordance with the power vested in me as the Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 188 "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING ELECTRIC VEHICLE LAWS; DEFINING ELECTRIC VEHICLE; PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL FEE ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE STATE; PROVIDING FOR A FEE ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES OPERATED IN THE STATE ITINERANTLY; PROVIDING FOR DISPOSITION OF THE FEES; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-1-101, 61-3-317, 61-3-321, AND 61-10-211, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

HB 188 would impose annual fees on different types of all-electric vehicles, including light vehicles, heavy trucks, and motor homes. The fee would be in addition to the personal property registration fee paid annually by vehicle owners.

While I support the intent of the bill to require electric vehicle owners to pay what is essentially a user fee into the state's highway trust fund, as do other vehicle owners that consume gasoline, HB 188 would establish some of the highest fees in the nation. The automobile industry is poised to offer more electric options and these fees would discourage the purchase of these vehicles in Montana.

Specifically, the \$195 annual fee for light vehicles would be higher than most states that have adopted these types of fees. Only a handful of the 28 states that have annual fees for electric vehicles that are higher than what is proposed in HB 188 – most range from \$50 to \$150. HB 188 initially recommended \$100 for electric vehicles weighing less than 6,000 pounds or with a capacity of one ton or less, and \$150 for those weighing more than 6,000 pounds or with a capacity of more than one ton. I would have supported these basic fees.

I am particularly concerned about the \$375 annual fee for "heavy trucks" with "a capacity in excess of one ton and a gross vehicle weight of 26,000 pounds or less." Montana code does not define "heavy truck." Moreover, the term "capacity" is not defined in either this legislation or Montana code, and could conflict with or be interpreted differently than the more accepted term "payload." Based on the language in the bill, many all-electric models of light-duty electric trucks - e.g. Ford F-Series, Toyota Tundras, Dodge Rams, Chevy Silverados, and GMC Sierras

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to name a few – would pay this higher fee because they may have payloads in excess of one ton. All-electric options for these popular trucks and others are slated for the automobile market and a fee of \$375 would be the highest in the nation by almost double. I applaud the work of the sponsor to address the unfairness of electric vehicle owners not paying their fair share to fund the state's road infrastructure. However, supporting such high fees goes against my plan to ensure that Montana maintains a competitive tax environment and is open for business. My recommendation is for the Legislature to bring a proposal next session that adopts a reasonable fee that better aligns with the fees of a majority of the other 28 states that have adopted them.

For these reasons, I veto HB 188.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

May 24, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Speaker Galt:

I Friday, May 14, 2021 I signed **House Bill 593** - K. Seekins-Crowe.

This bill has been delivered to the Secretary of State's office.

Sincerely,

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor