

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 424

2 INTRODUCED BY L. JONES, D. BEDEY, J. ESP, J. ELLSWORTH, K. BOGNER

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING SUSTAINABILITY OF STATE FINANCE;

5 REVISING TRANSFER PERCENTAGES INTO THE BUDGET STABILIZATION RESERVE FUND AND THE

6 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS LONG-RANGE BUILDING PROGRAM ACCOUNT; INCREASING THE CAP ON

7 THE BUDGET STABILIZATION RESERVE FUND; INCREASING THE CAP ON THE FIRE SUPPRESSION

8 FUND; ALLOWING THE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS LONG-RANGE BUILDING PROGRAM ACCOUNT TO

9 PAY ON BONDS AND RELATED COSTS; TEMPORARILY INCREASING THE GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY

10 FUNDS; REQUIRING THAT FUNDS IN THE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS LONG-RANGE BUILDING

11 PROGRAM ACCOUNT BE USED TO FOREGO OR REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF ISSUANCE OF GENERAL

12 OBLIGATION BONDS; PROVIDING FOR GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS AND GENERAL FUND

13 REVERSIONS INTO THE BUDGET STABILIZATION RESERVE FUND AND THE FIRE SUPPRESSION

14 FUND; PROVIDING FOR OTHER TRANSFERS FROM THE GENERAL FUND; PROVIDING FOR A STUDY

15 OF STATE BUDGET PROCESS FOR PERSONAL SERVICES EXPENDITURES; PROVIDING FOR A

16 STATUTORY APPROPRIATION; EXPANDING USES OF A STATUTORY APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING

17 APPROPRIATIONS; REQUIRING THE REDUCTION OF EXECUTIVE FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS IN THE

18 2027 BIENNIUM BUDGET; AMENDING SECTIONS 10-3-312, 17-7-102, 17-7-130, 17-7-140, 17-7-209, AND

19 17-7-502, AND 76-13-150, MCA; AMENDING SECTION 1(2), CHAPTER 476, LAWS OF 2019, SECTION 13,

20 CHAPTER 476, LAWS OF 2019, AND SECTION 2(2), CHAPTER 499, LAWS OF 2005; AND PROVIDING AN

21 IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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

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25 **Section 1.** Section 10-3-312, MCA, is amended to read:

26 **"10-3-312. Maximum expenditure by governor -- appropriation.** (1) Whenever a disaster or an

27 emergency, including an energy emergency as defined in 90-4-302 or an invasive species emergency declared

28 under 80-7-1013, is declared by the governor, there is statutorily appropriated to the office of the governor, as



1 accounts described in subsection (3) in lieu of the proceeds of bonds authorized in this section. The total  
2 amount of funds deposited in the accounts from bond proceeds and funds from the account established in 17-7-  
3 209 may not exceed the amounts authorized in subsection (3)."

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5 **Section 11.** Section 2(2), Chapter 499, Laws of 2005, is amended to read:

6 **"Section 2. Appropriation of bond proceeds.**

7 (2) The following money is appropriated from the CPF from the proceeds for the bonds authorized  
8 by [section 3] or from the account provided for in 17-7-209 to the department of natural resources and  
9 conservation for the capital projects described in this section, and if the bond proceeds are used, contingent  
10 upon the authorization of general obligation bonds by the 59th legislature and the sale of bonds by the board of  
11 examiners:"

12

13 **NEW SECTION. Section 12. Reduction of FTE in 2027 biennium -- appropriations.** (1) For the  
14 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, the executive budget must include a reduction of no fewer than 165 full-time  
15 equivalents.

16 (2) The reduction may only include positions funded by the general appropriations act.

17 (3) The reduction in full-time equivalents cannot disproportionately reduce full-time equivalents  
18 from the department of justice, the office of public instruction, the state auditor's office, the secretary of state's  
19 office, the office of the commissioner of higher education, and the public service commission.

20 (4) There is appropriated the following funds from the following sources in each year of the  
21 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, to the office of budget and program planning for the purpose of recruiting and  
22 retaining state employees:

23 (a) \$6 million from the general fund;

24 (b) \$6.4 million from state special revenue;

25 (c) \$4.8 million from federal special revenue; and

26 (d) \$200,000 in proprietary funds.

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28 **NEW SECTION. Section 13. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are