

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 587  
 2 INTRODUCED BY L. JONES, E. BUTTREY, D. SALOMON, S. FITZPATRICK, G. HERTZ, D. ZOLNIKOV, M.  
 3 REGIER, D. LOGE, F. ANDERSON, S. VINTON, T. WELCH, J. ELLSWORTH, K. BOGNER, B. GILLESPIE, J.  
 4 KASSMIER, D. BEDEY, B. LER, K. ZOLNIKOV, L. REKSTEN, K. WALSH, B. BARKER

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 6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING SCHOOL FINANCE LAWS;  
 7 ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL EQUALIZATION AND PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION ACCOUNT IN THE STATE  
 8 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND; PROVIDING THAT THE REVENUE FROM THE SCHOOL EQUALIZATION  
 9 LEVIES IS DEPOSITED IN THE ACCOUNT AND THAT THE ACCOUNT IS THE SECOND SOURCE OF  
 10 FUNDING FOR STATE EQUALIZATION AID FOLLOWING THE GUARANTEE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING  
 11 ADJUSTMENTS TO SCHOOL FUNDING EQUALIZATION MECHANISMS BASED ON REVENUE  
 12 DEPOSITED IN THE ACCOUNT; INCREASING THE COUNTY RETIREMENT GTB MULTIPLIER TO LOWER  
 13 COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES; CLARIFYING AND PROVIDING A CAP ON BASE GTB ADJUSTMENTS  
 14 FROM MARIJUANA REVENUE; REVISING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 20-9-331, 20-9-333, 20-9-  
 15 360, 20-9-366, 20-9-525, AND 20-9-622, MCA; AND PROVIDING ~~AN EFFECTIVE DATE~~ EFFECTIVE DATES  
 16 AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

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 20 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. School equalization and property tax reduction account -- uses.** (1)  
 21 There is a school equalization and property tax reduction account in the state special revenue fund. Contingent  
 22 on appropriation by the legislature, money in the account is for distribution to school districts as the second  
 23 source of funding for state equalization aid as provided in 20-9-343. At fiscal yearend, any fund balance in the  
 24 account exceeding what was appropriated must be transferred to the guarantee account established in 20-9-  
 25 622.

26 (2) The account receives revenue as described in 20-9-331, 20-9-333, and 20-9-360.

27 (3) Beginning in fiscal year 2025, each December the superintendent of public instruction shall  
 28 forecast the amount of revenue the account will receive in that fiscal year by dividing the sum of the taxable

