
68th Legislature 2023 HB 696.1

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 696	
2	INTRODUCED BY B. MERCER	
3		
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING MONTANA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT	
5	EXEMPTIONS; REMOVING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EXEMPTION; REMOVING THE SECRETARY	
6	OF STATE EX	XEMPTION; AND AMENDING SECTION 2-17-516, MCA."
7		
8	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:	
9		
10	Section 1. Section 2-17-516, MCA, is amended to read:	
11	"2-17	-516. Exemptions department of justice secretary of state university system office
12	of public ins	truction national guard. (1) Unless the proposed activities would detrimentally affect the
13	operation of the central computer center or the statewide telecommunications network, the office of public	
14	instruction and the secretary of state are is exempt from 2-17-512(1)(k) and (1)(l).	
15	(2)	Unless the proposed activities would detrimentally affect the operation of the central computer
16	center or the statewide telecommunications network, the department of justice and the university system are is	
17	exempt from:	
18	(a)	the enforcement provisions of 2-17-512(1)(d) and (1)(e) and 2-17-514;
19	(b)	the approval provisions of 2-17-512(1)(f), 2-17-523, and 2-17-527;
20	(c)	the budget approval provisions of 2-17-512(1)(g); and
21	(d)	the provisions of 2-17-512(1)(k) and (1)(l).
22	(3)	The department, upon notification of proposed activities by the department of justice, the
23	secretary of state, the university system, or the office of public instruction, shall determine if the central	
24	computer center or the statewide telecommunications network would be detrimentally affected by the proposed	
25	activity.	
26	(4)	(a)—For purposes of this section, a proposed activity affects the operation of the central
27	computer cen	ter or the statewide telecommunications network if it detrimentally affects the processing
28	workload, reliability, cost of providing service, or support service requirements of the central computer center of	



68th Legislature 2023 HB 696.1

the statewide telecommunications network or fails to meet the minimum security policies and standards set by the department.

- (b) Potential loss of revenue from fees paid by the department of justice, the secretary of state, the university system, or the office of public instruction for not utilizing services offered by the department are not considered a detrimental effect to the statewide telecommunications network or central computer center. If the department of justice, the secretary of state, the university system, or the office of public instruction does not utilize a service program after the department's rate was set for the biennium, the agency shall continue to pay any fees associated with the service or program for the remainder of the biennium.
- (5) When reviewing proposed activities of the university system, the department shall consider and make reasonable allowances for the unique educational needs and characteristics and the welfare of the university system as determined by the board of regents.
- (6) When reviewing proposed activities of the office of public instruction, the department shall consider and make reasonable allowances for the unique educational needs and characteristics of the office of public instruction to communicate and share data with school districts.
- (7) When reviewing proposed activities of the department of justice, the department shall consider and make reasonable allowances for the unique safety and security needs and characteristics of the department of justice to communicate and share data with federal, state, and local law enforcement entities.
- (8)(7) Section 2-17-512(1)(u) may not be construed to prohibit the university system from accepting federal funds or gifts, grants, or donations related to information technology or telecommunications.
- $\frac{(9)}{(8)}$ The national guard, as defined in 10-1-101(3), is exempt from 2-17-512."

21 - END -

