**** 68th Legislature 2023

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 891		
2	INTRODUCED BY J. CARLSON		
3			
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY TO PROVIDE ONE-TIME-ONLY		
5	EMERGENCY STABILIZATION PAYMENTS TO NURSING HOMES IN FISCAL YEAR 2023; AND		
6	PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."		
7			
8	WHEREAS, nursing homes care for frail, elderly Montanans who were disproportionately affected by		
9	the COVID-19 pandemic; and		
10	WHEREAS, nursing homes were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, losing		
11	residents and staff and coping with unprecedented inflation, labor costs, and workforce challenges; and		
12	WHEREAS, more than 60% of all nursing home residents rely on Medicaid to pay for their care; and		
13	WHEREAS, nursing homes throughout the state have closed, leaving residents struggling to find a new		
14	place to live and receive care and in many cases causing our most vulnerable seniors to move far from their		
15	family, friends, and home community; and		
16	WHEREAS, the State of Montana undertook a study of Medicaid rates, which confirmed that Medicaid		
17	providers, including nursing homes, are seriously underpaid for their services; and		
18	WHEREAS, Medicaid funding for nursing homes needs to increase to provide the resources needed a		
19	identified in the study, to promote access to quality Medicaid-funded services, and to avoid additional nursing		
20	home closures.		
21			
22	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:		
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24	<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 1. Appropriation for supplemental payments to nursing homes. (1)		
25	There is appropriated \$40,908,000 from the general fund to the department of public health and human		
26	services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, to make one-time-only emergency stabilization payments as		
27	soon as possible and no later than June 15, 2023, to nursing homes that provide services to medicaid		
28	recipients.		
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1	(2)	The department shall calculate the emergency stabilization payment for each nursing home by:	
2	(a)	determining the percentage of total medicaid bed days provided from July 1, 2022, through	
3	January 31, 2023, by each nursing home operating in the state at the time the payment is made;		
4	(b)	determining the percentage of total medicaid bed days that each of the nursing homes	
5	provided during the time period; and		
6	(c)	paying each nursing home a percentage of the appropriation provided for in subsection (1) that	
7	is equal to the percentage of medicaid bed days the nursing home provided from July 1, 2022, through January		
8	31, 2023.		
9			
10	NEW S	SECTION. Section 2. Direction to department of public health and human services. (1)	
11	The legislature	directs the department of public health and human services to file a timely state plan	
12	amendment re	lated to the nursing home emergency stabilization payments provided for in [section 1] and take	
13	all other steps necessary to work with the centers for medicare and medicaid services to access federal		
14	medicaid funds available to match any portion of the payments.		
15	(2)	If federal funds become available, the legislature intends that the general fund appropriation be	
16	reduced by the amount of federal funds available.		
17			
18	NEW S	SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.	
19		- END -	