

**SENATE JOURNAL
68TH LEGISLATURE
ADDENDUM**

Helena, Montana
Adjourned Sine Die

Senate Chambers
State Capitol

May 2, 2023

**MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR
Reference: Veto SB 442**

May 2, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, **I hereby veto Senate Bill 442**, "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING THE DISTRIBUTION OF MARIJUANA TAXES; REVISING THE ALLOCATION OF THE MARIJUANA STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; TRANSFERRING TAX REVENUE FROM MARIJUANA SALES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FUNDING OF COUNTY ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE; PROVIDING A CALCULATION BASED ON THE ROAD MILES, STATE AND FEDERAL LAND AREA, AND BLOCK MANAGEMENT ACRES IN COUNTIES AND CONSOLIDATED CITY-COUNTIES; ESTABLISHING A HABITAT LEGACY ACCOUNT; REVISING THE MONTANA WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT ACT; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-70- 101, AND 16-12-111, 87-5-801, 87-5-802, 87-5-803, 87-5-804, 87-5-806, 87-5-807, AND 87-5-808, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

First, there is a substantial technical issue with Senate Bill 442. As written, the bill glaringly omits an appropriation, failing to fund itself. Without an appropriation, the bill does nothing.

Second, there is a substantial policy issue with Senate Bill 442. The bill is unprecedented in that it authorizes ongoing state resources from the General Fund to maintain county roads.

As you know, the state is responsible for constructing, reconstructing, maintaining, and repairing state highways and roads, and local jurisdictions for their local roads. In recent history, the state has never authorized ongoing state resources from the General Fund for such local road projects for local jurisdictions. Instead, local jurisdictions use their local resources for critical local infrastructure needs.

Adopting the approach of Senate Bill 442 creates a slippery slope, an incentive for local jurisdictions to reduce their services while keeping taxes higher on their citizens. Local jurisdictions will not have to dedicate as much of their local resources to their local roads as they have had to. But instead of cutting citizens' taxes proportionately, they can reallocate

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those dollars to capricious, unnecessary projects, resulting in a net increase of Montanans' tax burden.

Furthermore, and more troubling, Senate Bill 442 creates the illusion that the state will accept increasing responsibility for matters that are strictly under the jurisdiction of local authorities.

Instead of establishing an ongoing authorization of state resources from the General Fund, a better, more responsible, more prudent approach is to provide one-time-only funding to local jurisdictions to address their infrastructure needs. Such an approach is more appropriate given the state's surplus and is provided for in Senate Bill 536.

For these reasons, I veto Senate Bill 442.

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 3, 2023

BILLS AND JOURNALS

Correctly enrolled: **SB 327, SB 535, SB 544, SR 72, SR 73, SR 74.**

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Senate joint resolutions concurred and returned to the Senate:

5/3/2023

SJ 30, introduced by B. Gillespie

SJ 31, introduced by B. Usher

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Reference: Signed Bills

May 3, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, I signed the following bills:

Senate Bill 164 - Usher

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Senate Bill 166 - Lynch
Senate Bill 167 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 170 - Mandeville
Senate Bill 173 - Bogner
Senate Bill 174 - McKamey
Senate Bill 177 - Zolnikov
Senate Bill 178 - Zolnikov
Senate Bill 197 - Cuffe
Senate Bill 199 - Hertz
Senate Bill 202 - Hertz
Senate Bill 213 - McClafferty
Senate Bill 214 - McClafferty
Senate Bill 220 - Glimm
Senate Bill 234 - Usher
Senate Bill 236 - Hertz
Senate Bill 237 - Vance
Senate Bill 240 - Small
Senate Bill 244 - Cuffe
Senate Bill 260 - Salomon
Senate Bill 262 - Zolnikov
Senate Bill 263 - Regier
Senate Bill 264 - Regier
Senate Bill 269 - Hertz
Senate Bill 270 - Regier
Senate Bill 411 - Usher

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 4, 2023

BILLS AND JOURNALS

Correctly enrolled: **SB 104, SB 247, SB 285, SB 334, SB 424, SB 506, SB 507, SB 510, SB 528, SB 522, SB 530, SB 536, SB 550, SB 561.**

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MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Reference: Signed Bills

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, I signed the following bills:

Senate Bill 74 - McKamey
Senate Bill 143 - Esp
Senate Bill 154 - Regier
Senate Bill 155 - Bogner
Senate Bill 281 - Flowers
Senate Bill 284 - Glimm
Senate Bill 308 - Bogner
Senate Bill 314 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 339 - Bogner
Senate Bill 377 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 378 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 406 - Trebas
Senate Bill 416 - Ellis
Senate Bill 422 - Bogner
Senate Bill 423 - Bogner
Senate Bill 430 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 464 - Trebas
Senate Bill 480 - Dunwell
Senate Bill 483 - Pope
Senate Bill 492 - Fitzpatrick

On Thursday, May 4, 2023, I signed the following bills:

Senate Bill 16 - Hertz
Senate Bill 32 - Cuffe
Senate Bill 33 - Cuffe
Senate Bill 37 - Hertz
Senate Bill 54 - Hertz
Senate Bill 60 - Tempel
Senate Bill 71 - Salomon
Senate Bill 78 - Gillespie
Senate Bill 83 - Cuffe
Senate Bill 150 - Lenz
Senate Bill 165 - Usher
Senate Bill 171 - Regier

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Senate Bill 176 - Regier
Senate Bill 201 - Hertz
Senate Bill 203 - Bogner
Senate Bill 208 - Small
Senate Bill 216 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 217 - Gillespie
Senate Bill 228 - Small
Senate Bill 232 - Ellis
Senate Bill 252 - Hertz
Senate Bill 289 - Friedel
Senate Bill 310 - Small
Senate Bill 312 - Vermeire
Senate Bill 321 - Boldman
Senate Bill 323 - Trebas
Senate Bill 325 - Friedel
Senate Bill 330 - Hertz
Senate Bill 331 - Hertz

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 5, 2023

BILLS AND JOURNALS

Correctly enrolled: **SB 6, SB 11, SB 94, SB 96, SB 182, SB 221, SB 229, SB 265, SB 294, SB 296, SB 352, SB 516, SB 518, SB 531, SJ 19, SJ 30, SJ 31.**

May 9, 2023

BILLS AND JOURNALS

Correctly enrolled: **SB 116, SB 148, SB 149, SB 245, SB 407.**
Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 6:45 a.m., April 20, 2023: **SB 10, SB 46, SB 419.**
Signed by the President of the Senate at 4:00 p.m., April 20, 2023: **SB 10, SB 46, SB 419.**
Signed by the Speaker of the House at 10:00 a.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 10, SB 46, SB 419.**
Delivered to the Governor at 11:20 a.m., May 9, 2023: **SB 10, SB 46, SB 419.**

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May 10, 2023

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR
Reference: Signed Bills

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Monday, May 8, 2023, I signed the following bills:

Senate Bill 274 - Zolnikov
Senate Bill 279 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 286 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 288 - Cuffe
Senate Bill 289 - Friedel
Senate Bill 293 - Noland
Senate Bill 300 - McClafferty
Senate Bill 307 - Noland
Senate Bill 309 - Bartel
Senate Bill 313 - Regier
Senate Bill 324 - Brown
Senate Bill 338 - Cuffe
Senate Bill 340 - Small
Senate Bill 344 - Usher
Senate Bill 345 - Noland
Senate Bill 354 - Brown
Senate Bill 356 - Hinebauch
Senate Bill 358 - Hertz
Senate Bill 363 - Usher
Senate Bill 373 - Salomon
Senate Bill 391 - Usher
Senate Bill 392 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 398 - Gillespie
Senate Bill 400 - Fuller
Senate Bill 426 - Small
Senate Bill 432 - Manzella
Senate Bill 444 - Small
Senate Bill 448 - Cuffe
Senate Bill 451 - Small
Senate Bill 452 - Usher
Senate Bill 454 - Small
Senate Bill 455 - Vermeire
Senate Bill 456 - Vermeire

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Senate Bill 457 - Vermeire
Senate Bill 491 - Fitzpatrick

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 11, 2023

BILLS AND JOURNALS

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 8:00 a.m., May 8, 2023: **SB 11, SB 94, SB 96, SB 182, SB 221, SB 229, SB 265, SB 294, SB 296, SB 352, SB 518, SB 531.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:30 a.m., May 10, 2023: **SB 11, SB 94, SB 96, SB 182, SB 221, SB 229, SB 265, SB 294, SB 296, SB 352, SB 518, SB 531.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 2:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 11, SB 94, SB 96, SB 182, SB 221, SB 229, SB 265, SB 294, SB 296, SB 352, SB 518, SB 531.**

Delivered to the Governor at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 11, SB 94, SB 96, SB 182, SB 221, SB 229, SB 265, SB 294, SB 296, SB 352, SB 518, SB 531.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 10:45 a.m., May 9, 2023: **SB 116, SB 148, SB 149, SB 245, SB 407.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:30 a.m., May 10, 2023: **SB 116, SB 148, SB 149, SB 245, SB 407.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 3:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 116, SB 148, SB 149, SB 245, SB 407.**

Delivered to the Governor at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 116, SB 148, SB 149, SB 245, SB 407.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 11:45 a.m., May 10, 2023: **SB 6, SB 424.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 1:00 p.m., May 10, 2023: **SB 6, SB 424.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 2:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 6, SB 424.**

Delivered to the Governor at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 6, SB 424.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 2:45 p.m., April 28, 2023: **SB 27, SB 38, SB 51, SB 73, SB 144, SB 151, SB 169, SB 195, SB 219, SB 278, SB 280, SB 295, SB 322, SB 328, SB 332, SB 359, SB 375, SB 380, SB 384, SB 393, SB 487, SB 490, SB 505, SB 521, SB 554.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:00 a.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 27, SB 38, SB 51, SB 73, SB 144, SB 151, SB 169, SB 195, SB 219, SB 278, SB 280, SB 295, SB 322, SB 328, SB 332, SB 359, SB 375, SB 380, SB 384, SB 393, SB 487, SB 490, SB 505, SB 521, SB 554.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 2:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 27, SB 38, SB 51, SB 73, SB 144, SB 151, SB 169, SB 195, SB 219, SB 278, SB 280, SB 295, SB 322, SB 328, SB 332, SB 359, SB 375, SB 380, SB 384, SB 393, SB 487, SB 490, SB 505, SB 521, SB 554.**

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Delivered to the Governor at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 27, SB 38, SB 51, SB 73, SB 144, SB 151, SB 169, SB 195, SB 219, SB 278, SB 280, SB 295, SB 322, SB 328, SB 332, SB 359, SB 375, SB 380, SB 384, SB 393, SB 487, SB 490, SB 505, SB 521, SB 554.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 3:30 p.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 104, SB 247, SB 506, SB 507, SB 510, SB 528, SB 530, SB 550.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 1:30 p.m., May 5, 2023: **SB 104, SB 247, SB 506, SB 507, SB 510, SB 528, SB 530, SB 550.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 2:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 104, SB 247, SB 506, SB 507, SB 510, SB 528, SB 530, SB 550.**

Delivered to the Governor at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 104, SB 247, SB 506, SB 507, SB 510, SB 528, SB 530, SB 550.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 3:30 p.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 536.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 1:00 p.m., May 10, 2023: **SB 536.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 2:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 536.**

Delivered to the Governor at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 536.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 6:10 p.m., May 1, 2023: **SB 3, SB 59, SB 93, SB 122, SB 499.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:00 a.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 3, SB 59, SB 93, SB 122, SB 499.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 3, SB 59, SB 93, SB 122, SB 499.**

Delivered to the Governor at 4:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 3, SB 59, SB 93, SB 122, SB 499.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 8:40 a.m., May 3, 2023: **SB 47, SB 123, SB 382, SB 458, SB 540, SB 557, SB 558, SB 564.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:00 a.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 47, SB 123, SB 382, SB 458, SB 540, SB 557, SB 558, SB 564.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 3:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 47, SB 123, SB 382, SB 458, SB 540, SB 557, SB 558, SB 564.**

Delivered to the Governor at 4:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 47, SB 123, SB 382, SB 458, SB 540, SB 557, SB 558, SB 564.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 12:45 p.m., May 2, 2023: **SB 209, SB 374, SB 443, SB 498.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:00 a.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 209, SB 374, SB 443, SB 498.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 209, SB 374, SB 443, SB 498.**

Delivered to the Governor at 4:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 209, SB 374, SB 443, SB 498.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 1:50 p.m., May 3, 2023: **SB 327, SB 535, SB 544.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:00 a.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 327, SB 535, SB 544.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 327, SB 535, SB 544.**

Delivered to the Governor at 4:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 327, SB 535, SB 544.**

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

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Reference: Veto SB 485, SB 275, SB 4, SB 301

May 11, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

Public service is a noble calling, and I thank you and members of the Legislature for your dedicated service to Montana. As has been the case since before our nation's founding, public service comes with personal sacrifice - long hours away from home, less time with family, and appropriately limited compensation. Those who enter public service, by design, are often motivated by a cause greater than themselves. As you and other members of the Legislature know, the sacrifice is real, but the work incredibly rewarding.

We are fortunate in the State of Montana to have a genuine citizen legislature. Montanans elect men and women to represent their communities at our State Capitol for 90 days every two years and to do legislative work as needed between sessions. Our part-time citizen legislature stands in contrast to those in other states like California where professional politicians are full-time legislators, at great cost to taxpayers. Our system keeps government close to the people, and it's part of what makes Montana special.

Public service is demanding, challenging, and rewarding, and I firmly believe a worker is due his or her wages. Periodically, public sector compensation should be appropriately adjusted to keep pace with the private sector, especially amid once-in-a-generation inflation. That's one reason I appreciate that the Legislature recognized the hard work of our dedicated state employees and passed House Bill 13. As you know, House Bill 13 provides state employees with a well-deserved pay increase - a \$1.50 per hour or 4% raise, whichever is greater - on July 1 each year of the upcoming biennium. This modest pay increase will help us retain highly qualified state employees and be more competitive with the private sector, where workers' wages have increased by 16.1% from 2020 to the third quarter of 2022.

This brings me to what Senate Bill 485 proposes: a 74% pay increase for legislators. I firmly oppose legislators' efforts to use taxpayers' hard-earned dollars to fund themselves a 74% pay increase.

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Estimated to cost Montana taxpayers nearly an additional \$2.6 million between 2025 and 2027, a 74% pay increase is inappropriate and excessive, and it would violate the trust Montanans place in us to be good stewards of their money. Furthermore, the Legislature increased legislators per diem compensation by nearly 30% in March through House Bill 28, at an increased cost to Montana taxpayers of nearly \$2.3 million through 2027.

As you may know, House Bill 13, which implemented the new state employee pay plan and which is detailed above, applies to legislators as well. Beginning the next regular session of the Montana Legislature in January 2025, legislators will earn an additional \$3 per hour, bringing their compensation for the regular legislative session to at least \$299.88 per day - \$128.88 for their salary and \$171 for their per diem compensation, which the Legislature increased this session from \$132.43 and which the Legislature could choose to adjust in 2025.

Therefore, in accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, **I hereby veto Senate Bill 485: "AN ACT RAISING THE HOURLY RATE OF LEGISLATOR COMPENSATION; AMENDING SECTION 5-2-301, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE."**

If legislators' pay is to be adjusted, it should be done prudently and in line with what Montanans, including our state employees, see with their paychecks. Better approaches exist than having legislators vote on their own pay, including ballot initiatives, by which legislators could take their pay raises to the people and let Montana voters approve or disapprove them.

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

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May 11, 2003

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59602

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

It is the established policy of the State of Montana to protect the quality and potability of water and domestic uses. See MCA 76-4-101. Furthermore, a central purpose of subdivision review is to ensure that the development of individual lots does not negatively impact the development of others. Private property protections are found throughout the Montana Code as well as in the State Constitution. Montana takes private property rights seriously.

In furtherance of these policy goals, current law directs the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to ensure that well isolation zones and drainfield mixing zones do not interfere with the purposes of the other. Well isolation zones protect the quality of the water produced by wells, and drainfield mixing zones are identified and located for the same purpose. Placing a well in a drainfield mixing zone would unreasonably increase the risk of contamination.

Senate Bill 275 would allow previously approved drainfield mixing zones and well isolation zones to encroach on proposed neighboring subdivision lots without the knowledge or consent of the neighboring property owner. This is an unacceptable restriction on the development of private property.

I will always seek to remove unnecessary regulatory burdens from permitting processes. The Red Tape Relief Task Force, which I established and which Lieutenant Governor Juras leads, and its resulting efforts during the 2023 legislative session speak to my commitment to making government more customer friendly and effective.

In fact, during consideration of Senate Bill 275, DEQ proposed amendments to the bill that would have allowed additional flexibility regarding the location of well isolation and drainfield mixing zones in the subdivision review process. Unfortunately, these proposed amendments were rejected.

As passed, Senate Bill 275 removes some essential protections for domestic water quality and the development of one's private property.

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For these reasons, in accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, **I hereby veto Senate Bill 275: "AN ACT REVISING THE SANITATION IN SUBDIVISIONS ACT; REVISING THE DEFINITIONS OF PROPOSED DRAINFIELD MIXING ZONE AND PROPOSED WELL ISOLATION ZONE; AND AMENDING SECTION 76-4-102, MCA."**

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 11, 2003

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59602

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

We share a commitment to improving conditions and services at the Montana State Hospital (MSH) and to resolving the extraordinary problems at our state-run health care facilities caused by decades of past administrations sweeping issues under the rug and kicking cans down the road. Based on our ongoing, strenuous reform work, it should be clear that the neglect of our facilities and their patients that was tolerated by the previous administration and others is no longer acceptable to my team and me.

As evidenced by our candid interactions with the Legislature, my administration is willing to bring challenges to the forefront and have tough conversations about how our facilities can be improved for future generations. For that matter, we are also unwavering in our efforts to increase transparency and accountability at MSH. I am proud to have worked alongside you to propose and support historic investments that do just that, as well as improve conditions and services at MSH, to ensure that vulnerable Montanans receive the most clinically appropriate, safest, and highest quality care possible from the Department of Public Health and Human Services. And we appreciate the work of advocates who are dedicated to achieving the same goals. However, Senate Bill 4 is legally insufficient, deeply flawed, and fails to protect Montanans' constitutionally protected rights to privacy.

I am disappointed that the Legislature failed to consider my proposed amendments to Senate Bill 4, which would have strengthened the bill and improved the potential for compliance by

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inserting the correct federal citation, streamlining and enhancing reporting requirements, and protecting Montanans' privacy rights that are guaranteed by the Montana Constitution and federal law. I am convinced that my proposed amendments would have been the best way to resolve the problems presented by the version of Senate Bill 4 approved by the Legislature. Without such amendments, Senate Bill 4 is legally insufficient, promotes the sharing of inconsistent information, and fails to protect Montanans' constitutionally protected rights to privacy.

Therefore, in accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, **I hereby veto Senate Bill 4:** "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE REPORTS OF ALLEGED ABUSE AND NEGLECT AT THE MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL TO THE STATE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTIONS 53-21-107, 53-21-166, AND 53-21-169, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 11, 2003

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59602

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

Like you and members of the Legislature, I agree that local government land use regulations need to be predictably and consistently enforced, including regulations issued under the Lakeshore Protection Act. The interpretation of such regulations should not change with a personnel change and there should be a reasonable statute of limitations outside of which local governments may not challenge structures or other improvements built pursuant to a properly issued permit.

Senate Bill 301, however, does not effectively address these concerns. It creates one set of rules for "grandfathered" properties while creating an entirely different set of rules for lakeshore structures built after January 1, 2023. Government should not create different sets of rules for different classes of landowners.

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In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, **I hereby veto Senate Bill 301**: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY AND REGULATIONS; PROVIDING THAT CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION IS GRANDFATHERED; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RESTROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

Senate Bill 301 generally prohibits local governments from initiating actions to ensure that docks, retaining walls, roads, and other lakeshore structures constructed prior to January 1, 2023 comply with lakeshore regulations and with any permits issued under the Lakeshore Protection Act. This is an arbitrary date that prohibits, for example, a local government from inspecting a structure built as recently as October 2022 - imposing an unreasonable time restriction on local governments. It is also arbitrary in that it protects structures built prior to January 1, 2023 but fails to provide any limitations on enforcement actions for new structures constructed after January 1, 2023.

Although Senate Bill 301 provides an exception allowing local governments to initiate enforcement actions relating to pre-January 1, 2023 structures "that were constructed illegally and cause material harm to lakeshore stability, water quality, or aquatic life," the exception is too narrow in that it fails to incorporate all of the factors required to be considered under 75-7-208, MCA in issuing a permit, including interference with navigation or lawful recreation, diminishment of fish or wildlife habitat, creation of public nuisances, and creation of discordant visual impacts with natural scenic values.

Finally, Senate Bill 301 exempts entirely from permitting "minor modifications" (defined as "less than \$10,000") to pre-January 1, 2023 structures. Again, this is arbitrary in that it provides exceptions to one class of landowners - those who built a lakeshore structure prior to January 1, 2023 - while denying the same exception to landowners who build a new lakeshore structure after January 1, 2023. It also creates a potential loophole through the construction of serial "minor modifications." And while activities that involve "significant excavation, dredging, or in-fill of material or otherwise significantly impacts water quality" may not be undertaken under the "minor modification" exception, activities that cause other negative impacts - such as diminishment of fish or wildlife habitat or interference with navigation or recreation - are not restricted.

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For these reasons, I veto Senate Bill 301.

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 12, 2023

BILLS AND JOURNALS

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 4:30 p.m., April 28, 2023: **SB 75, SB 246, SB 253, SB 303, SB 362, SB 425, SB 445.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:00 a.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 75, SB 246, SB 253, SB 303, SB 362, SB 425, SB 445.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 75, SB 246, SB 253, SB 303, SB 362, SB 425, SB 445.**

Delivered to the Governor at 9:30 a.m., May 12, 2023: **SB 75, SB 246, SB 253, SB 303, SB 362, SB 425, SB 445.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 12:00 p.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 285, SB 334, SB 522, SB 561.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:00 a.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 285, SB 334, SB 522, SB 561.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 4:00 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SB 285, SB 334, SB 522, SB 561.**

Delivered to the Governor at 9:30 a.m., May 12, 2023: **SB 285, SB 334, SB 522, SB 561.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 2:45 p.m., April 28, 2023: **SJ 9, SJ 13, SJ 17, SR 53.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 6:10 a.m., May 1, 2023: **SR 2, SR 68, SR 69.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 8:00 a.m., May 8, 2023: **SJ 19, SJ 30, SJ 31.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:00 a.m., May 4, 2023: **SJ 9, SJ 13, SJ 17, SR 2, SR 53, SR 68, SR 69.**

Signed by the President of the Senate at 11:30 a.m., May 10, 2023: **SJ 19, SJ 30, SJ 31.**

Signed by the Speaker of the House at 2:30 p.m., May 11, 2023: **SJ 9, SJ 13, SJ 17, SJ 19, SJ 30, SJ 31.**

Delivered to the Secretary of State at 9:30 a.m., May 12, 2023: **SJ 9, SJ 13, SJ 17, SJ 19, SJ 30, SJ 31, SR 2, SR 53, SR 68, SR 69.**

May 16, 2023

BILLS AND JOURNALS

Correctly enrolled: **SB 19, SB 351.**

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MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Reference: Signed Bills

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, I signed the following bill:

Senate Bill 51 - Fitzpatrick

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, the following bill went into law without my signature:

Senate Bill 410 - Usher

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

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May 17, 2023

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR
Reference: Signed bills, Veto SB 499, SB 296

May 17, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, I signed the following bill:

Senate Bill 419 - Vance

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 17, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, I signed the following bills:

Senate Bill 245 - Zolnikov
Senate Bill 382 - Mandeville
Senate Bill 407 - Morigeau
Senate Bill 528 - Hertz

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor
May 17, 2023

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The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

Ownership of property is an inalienable right protected by Article II, Section 3 of the Montana Constitution. It is the responsibility of government to protect, rather than diminish, this fundamental right cherished by our citizens.

Montana law recognizes that in rare circumstances a landowner may lose title to land under the doctrine of adverse possession. Adverse possession is most commonly used as a tool to cure defects in title arising from conveyancing errors and mistakes in legal descriptions. For more than 100 years, the standards to acquire title through adverse possession in Montana have been rigorous, requiring a claimant to openly and continuously possess and use the land without the owner's permission for a period of at least five years, during which time the occupant must also pay all property taxes. Due to these stringent requirements, very few adverse possession claims succeed, and rightfully so, since a successful claim results in depriving the lawful owner of his or her property.

Senate Bill 499 introduces significant changes to Montana's long-standing adverse possession laws and dangerously weakens a landowner's constitutionally-protected property rights by lessening, for a select group of claimants, the stringent adverse possession requirements described above. For example, under current law a tenant occupying a home with the landowner's permission will not prevail in an adverse possession suit against the landlord, because permissive use is not an "adverse" use. Senate Bill 499 abruptly changes course and would allow a tenant residing on

property with the landowner's permission to successfully assert an adverse possession claim against the landlord if the tenant makes certain improvements to the property.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 499 unfairly and irrationally targets a single set of landowners - corporations organized in states other than Montana - arbitrarily denying them the same level of protection enjoyed by all other classes of landowners. If enacted, Senate Bill 499 will serve as a disincentive for out-of-state corporations to establish or expand operations in Montana.

Finally, Senate Bill 499 applies retroactively. If a rental or other property use agreement was consented to by the parties in reliance on the rules in existence at the time the agreement was made, Mont. Const. Art. II, Sec. 31 prohibits the State from impairing the

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enforcement or performance of those agreements. Retroactive application of Senate Bill 499 may also give rise to claims for the taking of property without just compensation under Mont. Const., Art. II, Sec. 29.

For these reasons, in accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, **I hereby veto Senate Bill 499:** "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO ADVERSE POSSESSION OF LAND, FIXTURES, AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS ON LAND OWNED BY FOREIGN FOR-PROFIT CORPORATIONS BY A MONTANA RESIDENT; EXEMPTING REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY A TRIBAL MEMBER, A TRIBE, OR TRIBAL LAND WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF A RESERVATION; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING A DEFINITION; AMENDING SECTION 70-18-101, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 17, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

We share a commitment to investing in Montana's senior and long-term care continuum and ensuring that Medicaid members across the state have access to the services that best meet their needs. My administration was proud to propose historic Medicaid provider rate increases for Montana's nursing homes in my Budget for Montana Families, representing an important commitment of new resources for entities that serve one of Montana's most vulnerable populations. My proposed budget recognized the importance of stabilizing and supporting our nursing home industry.

As you know, the Legislature built off my proposed provider rate increases and elected to approve additional rate increases for senior and long-term care services in addition to creating a new funding mechanism for assisted living facilities under **Senate Bill 296**. While

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I look forward to signing into law an overdue increase in rates for all of Montana's Medicaid providers, I have significant concerns that Senate Bill 296 is misguided policy brought by a stakeholder organization that has highlighted potential short-term savings but neglected to understand the legislation's significant, long-term fiscal impact and burden on taxpayers.

Senate Bill 296 establishes a cumbersome process for setting room and board rates for assisted living facilities which would lead to a multitude of different room and board rates. It also unnecessarily directs the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to seek a state plan amendment to make assisted living facility services currently covered under Big Sky Waiver (BSW) a coverable service under Community First Choice (CFC). DPHHS already possesses authority to test this approach, which is an inefficient and obtuse way to solve for years of inadequate Medicaid provider rates, which the Legislature and I have now addressed. Not only is there no reliable method of estimating the cost associated with making assisted living a CFC service, which could lead to major, unplanned financial obligations to the state, but also there is no provision enabling DPHHS to ensure that recipients have not exploited the eligibility system by transferring their assets. In addition to creating a new entitlement program, which DPHHS could not fully account for in its fiscal note, Senate Bill 296 would restrict DPHHS's ability to serve Medicaid patients choosing to live in a community setting instead of a nursing home.

While being mindful of the budget authority provided to us by the Legislature, my administration will continue to support Montana's skilled nursing and assisted living facilities as they modernize and adapt to changing demand and an ever-evolving senior and long-term care landscape. However, as more Montanans elect to age in their homes and outside of an institution, I cannot support fiscally unsound legislation that undermines and ignores that personal decision.

Therefore, in accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, **I hereby veto Senate Bill 296: "AN ACT CREATING THE SENIOR CARE FACILITY ACCESS AND STABILIZATION ACT; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR CALCULATING ROOM AND BOARD COSTS FOR ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PURSUE THE COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE FUNDING OPTION FOR ASSISTED LIVING; ESTABLISHING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."**

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 19, 2023

**MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR
Reference: Veto SB 73, Signed Bills**

May 19, 2023

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The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

The Montana Constitution directs that I, as governor, "see that the laws are faithfully executed." While I, with the Legislature, fully support government transparency and the public's right to know, I must also ensure those interests are properly pursued in light of countervailing, constitutionally mandated obligations. **Senate Bill 73** fails to do so.

Senate Bill 73 revises a statute that addresses the interplay of two constitutional considerations: the authority of the Legislature to supervise post-audit duties, and the right of Montanans to have their individual privacy protected. This intersection is not unique to the audit context. All constitutional officers must protect privacy of Montanans where individual privacy interests are clearly paramount. Even the public's constitutional Right to Know expressly yields in such circumstances.

Montana courts agree. A Helena district court in April protected the privacy of Montanans over the Right to Know, holding in that case that "there should be no dispute that public employees possess privacy interests in relation to personnel matters." In reaching this holding, the court quoted the Montana Supreme Court to state that "the competing right to privacy and right to know interest 'must be balanced in the context of the facts of each case ...'" and that "it is the courts' duty to balance the competing rights at issue..."

Senate Bill 73 flies in the face of this settled approach. Senate Bill 73 concludes the balance is always in favor of an unelected bureaucrat, the legislative auditor. Senate Bill 73 gives the legislative auditor plenary review of any and all government documents, in any context, by any means, at any time, without notice or consent, leaving it up to the auditor to determine if and how to protect a state agency's confidential information.¹

Giving an unelected bureaucrat such unfettered authority, especially without safeguards for Montanans' privacy interests, is unacceptable.

As the auditor's own counsel has acknowledged, state agency information belongs, and always belongs, to the agency. The legislative auditor is solely responsible to the Legislature. MCA§ 5- 13-303. So the state agency, not the legislative auditor, must

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necessarily oversee and facilitate the handling of its own confidential information, as it is accountable for the well-keeping of its own information.²

Indeed, it must be so. To require, as Senate Bill 73 does, that state agencies turn over confidential information unquestioned to the auditor -- or subject the agency, including those that oversee the agency, to fines, jail, and unemployment³-- fails to take into account

¹ During this very legislative session, the auditor attempted to secure electronic information held by a cabinet agency for another agency without the knowledge or consent of the unsuspecting agency. It is only because the cabinet agencies take their confidentiality obligations seriously that this did not occur.

² This is consistent with other statutes governing audits involving the private sector. See e.g., MCA § 50-16-529 (authorizing a health care provider to disclose patient information without patient authorization "to a person who obtains information for purposes of an audit" only "if that person agrees in writing to: (a) remove or destroy, at the earliest opportunity consistent with the purpose of the audit, information that would enable the patient to be identified; and (b) not disclose the information further, except to accomplish the audit or to report unlawful or improper conduct involving fraud in payment for health care by a health care provider or patient or other unlawful conduct by a health care provider; ...").

³ Senate Bill 73 provides that a state agency "has a duty to aid" the legislative auditor, thereby expressly subjecting the entire agency to the official misconduct statute. See MCA § 47-7-401. This mandate is in tension with MCA § 5-13-314, which protects a state employee "who provides information to the committee, the legislative auditor, or the legislative auditor's authorized designee" from "any penalties, sanctions, retaliation, or restrictions in connection with the employee's or contractor's employment as a result of the disclosure of information unless the employee or contractor disclosing the information has violated state law." Employees that comply with Senate Bill 73 can run afoul of MCA § 5-13-314 and lose their job or comply with MCA § 5-13-314 and run afoul of Senate Bill 73 and lose their job. Indeed, disclosing confidential information protected by the Montana Constitution, even to the auditor, could also be construed as official misconduct. See MCA § 45-7-401(1)(b) (stating that a public servant commits the offense of official misconduct when he or she "knowingly performs an act in an official capacity that the public servant knows is forbidden by law.").

the state agency's obligation under the Montana Constitution to ensure that confidential information is adequately protected.⁴ The legislative audit serves as an appropriate check on the other branches of government, but so does the ability of state agencies to ensure the information sought is both lawfully sought⁵ and properly protected. And where there is an impasse as to which constitutional right wins the day, it is the

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judiciary, as the final arbiter of the meaning of the Constitution, that is the tie breaker, not an unelected bureaucrat.

⁴ See, e.g., MCA§ 2-6-1002(11) (defining "public information" to mean "information prepared, owned, used, or retained by any public agency relating to the transaction of official business, regardless of form, except for confidential information that must be protected against public disclosure under applicable law.").

⁵ The Legislative Audit Act, found in Title 5, Chapter 13, lays out the parameters of an audit. MCA § 5-13-101(2) generally states:

Because the legislature is responsible for authorizing the expenditure of public money, designating the sources from which money may be collected, and shaping the administration to perform the work of state government and is held finally accountable for fiscal policy, the legislature should also be responsible for the audit of books, accounts, activities, and records so that it may be assured that its directives have been carried out.

And MCA § 5-13-304 specifically states:

The legislative auditor shall:

- (1) conduct a financial and compliance audit of every state agency every 2 years covering the 2-year period since the last audit, unless otherwise required by state law.
- (2) conduct an audit to meet the standards and accomplish the objectives required in 5-13-308 whenever the legislative auditor determines it necessary and shall advise the members of the legislative audit committee; ...
- (8) have the authority to audit records of organizations and individuals receiving grants from or on behalf of the state to determine that the grants are administered in accordance with the grant terms and conditions. Whenever a state agency enters into an agreement to grant resources under its control to others, the agency shall obtain the written consent of the grantee to the audit provided for in this subsection.

See MCA§ 5-13-308 (identifying "[t]he objectives of financial compliance, performance, and information system audits"); see *also* MCA§ 5-13-321 (authorizing the auditor to participate in joint audits).

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Senate Bill 490, which I signed into law today, bears this out. In Senate Bill 490, even when duly elected legislators subpoena information from a person (including an agency), the subpoena must identify a legitimate legislative purpose, and the person subpoenaed may deny producing confidential information in the same way a records request could be denied under the Right to Know. Senate Bill 73, then, gives an unelected bureaucrat unfettered access to confidential information that neither the public under the constitutional Right to Know nor even the Legislature itself has access.

In the attached letters, you will find what officials with the Departments of Administration, Labor and Industry (DLI), Natural Resources and Conservation, and Public Health and Human Services, as well as the Montana Federation of Public Employees, have identified as citizens' private information that Senate Bill 73 puts squarely in jeopardy. The disclosure of some of this private, confidential information could result in violations of federal law and regulation and could be very costly to Montana taxpayers. The following is a noncomprehensive list of what these officials provided my office so I could better understand what privacy interests and citizens' private, confidential information are at risk with Senate Bill 73:

- Protected health information, including medical conditions, medical histories and medical treatments;
- Tax information;
- Social Security information;
- Financial and banking information, including financial and bank statements;
- Confidential personnel files containing private information about personal health and family matters;
- Confidential litigation information, even amid pending or ongoing litigation; and
- Confidential information kept by DLI's Human Rights Bureau.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 73 substitutes the will of Montanans for that of an unelected legislative auditor by unprecedentedly allowing elected officials to be categorically removed from office for failing to produce constitutionally protected documents. Even in the face of outright election fraud, the removal of an elected official is only successful if the fraud proved in court is so prevalent as to render the outcome of the election uncertain. This is true across the country, and the rationale is clear: the will of the voters is paramount and, without compelling reason of the highest order, must be honored. If audit interference should rise to the level of removal, Montana law already provides adequate procedures, such as impeachment or recall, which reserve that ability squarely with the people and the people's elected representatives.

Finally, providing an auditor with sweeping, unchecked authority, as Senate Bill 73 does, runs counter to efforts in other states to rein in auditors' overreach and protect citizens' personal, private information. Most recently, in response to an elected state auditor accessing citizens' confidential, private information, including medical records, the Iowa Legislature passed a bill to limit the state auditor's access to personal information. Under the bill, the auditor would maintain access to de-identified, redacted information to protect citizens' privacy. In Iowa, the Legislature restricted overreach from an elected auditor and

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protected citizens' privacy; conversely in Montana, Senate Bill 73 expands the potential for overreach from an unelected auditor and undermines citizens' privacy.

For these reasons, in accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, **I hereby veto Senate Bill 73:** "AN ACT CLARIFYING AN AGENCY'S DUTY TO PERMIT INSPECTION, EXAMINATION, AND REPRODUCTION OF RECORDS FOR LEGISLATIVE AUDIT PURPOSES; PROVIDING THAT AUDIT MATERIALS ARE CONFIDENTIAL PRIOR TO PRESENTATION OF THE AUDIT REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE; PROVIDING THAT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DUTY CONSTITUTES OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-18-816 AND 5-13-309, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 19, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Friday, May 19, 2023, I signed the following bills:

Senate Bill 3 - Cuffe
Senate Bill 6 - Gross
Senate Bill 10 – O'Brien
Senate Bill 11 - Usher
Senate Bill 27 - Sales
Senate Bill 38 - Brown
Senate Bill 46 – McKamey
Senate Bill 47 - Manzella
Senate Bill 59 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 93 – Cuffe
Senate Bill 94 - Usher
Senate Bill 96 - Usher
Senate Bill 104 - Fuller
Senate Bill 116 - Lenz
Senate Bill 122 - Hertz
Senate Bill 123 - Hertz
Senate Bill 144 - Tempel
Senate Bill 148 - Lenz

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Senate Bill 149 - Lenz
Senate Bill 151 - Lenz
Senate Bill 169 - Hertz
Senate Bill 182 - Lenz
Senate Bill 195 - Trebas
Senate Bill 209 - Hertz
Senate Bill 219 - Curdy
Senate Bill 221 - Usher
Senate Bill 229 - Usher
Senate Bill 247 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 265 - Noland
Senate Bill 278 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 280 - Lang
Senate Bill 294 - Usher
Senate Bill 295 - Gillespie
Senate Bill 322 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 325 - Friedel
Senate Bill 327 - Glimm
Senate Bill 328 - Lenz
Senate Bill 332 - Hertz
Senate Bill 352 - Lenz
Senate Bill 359 - Vermeire
Senate Bill 374 - Curdy
Senate Bill 375 - Lang
Senate Bill 380 - Small
Senate Bill 382 - Mandeville
Senate Bill 384 - Zolnikov
Senate Bill 393 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 424 - Mandeville
Senate Bill 443 - Friedel
Senate Bill 458 - Glimm
Senate Bill 487 - Vance
Senate Bill 490 - Hertz
Senate Bill 498 - Morigeau
Senate Bill 505 - Hertz
Senate Bill 506 - Hertz
Senate Bill 507 - Zolnikov
Senate Bill 510 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 518 - Manzella
Senate Bill 521 - Vance
Senate Bill 530 - Hertz
Senate Bill 531 - Salomon
Senate Bill 535 - Lynch
Senate Bill 536 - Hertz
Senate Bill 540 - Zolnikov
Senate Bill 544 - Curdy
Senate Bill 550 - Hertz
Senate Bill 554 - Hertz

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Senate Bill 557 - Noland
Senate Bill 558 - Morigeau
Senate Bill 564 - McGillvray

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 22, 2023

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR
Reference: Signed Bills

May 22, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Monday, May 22, 2023, I signed the following bills:

Senate Bill 75 – Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 246 – Zolnikov
Senate Bill 253 – Hertz
Senate Bill 285 – Glimm
Senate Bill 303 – Hertz
Senate Bill 334 – Esp
Senate Bill 362 – Morigeau
Senate Bill 425 – Small
Senate Bill 445 – Bogner
Senate Bill 522 – Zolnikov
Senate Bill 561 – Hinebauch

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

May 30, 2023

BILLS AND JOURNALS

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 8:00 a.m., May 19, 2023: **SB 19, SB 351.**
Signed by the President of the Senate at 10:00 a.m., May 23, 2023: **SB 19, SB 351.**
Signed by the Speaker of the House at 4:00 p.m., May 27, 2023: **SB 19, SB 351.**
Delivered to the Governor at 8:00 a.m., May 30, 2023: **SB 19, SB 351.**

June 7, 2023

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR
Reference: Signed Bills

June 7, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Wednesday, June 7, 2023, I signed the following bills:

Senate Bill 19 - Regier
Senate Bill 351 - Zolnikov

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

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June 20, 2023

BILLS AND JOURNALS

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 4:30 p.m., May 4, 2023: **SB 397, SB 516.**
Signed by the President of the Senate at 10:30 a.m., June 8, 2023: **SB 397, SB 516.**
Signed by the Speaker of the House at 1:45 p.m., June 20, 2023: **SB 397, SB 516.**
Delivered to the Governor at 2:00 p.m., June 20, 2023: **SB 397, SB 516.**

Signed by the Secretary of the Senate at 11:00 a.m., June 20, 2023: **SB 184, SB 254.**
Signed by the President of the Senate at 12:55 p.m., June 20, 2023: **SB 184, SB 254.**
Signed by the Speaker of the House at 1:45 p.m., June 20, 2023: **SB 184, SB 254.**
Delivered to the Governor at 2:00 p.m., June 20, 2023: **SB 184, SB 254.**

June 29, 2023

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR
Reference: Signed Bills

June 29, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Thursday, June 29, 2023, I signed the following bills:

Senate Bill 184 – Lenz
Senate Bill 254 – Bogner
Senate Bill 397 – Bogner
Senate Bill 516 - Gross

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

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July 18, 2023

July 18, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Ellsworth:

On Tuesday, July 18, 2023, I signed the following bill:

Senate Bill 181 - Lenz

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

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

FINAL RESOLUTION OF INTRODUCED BILLS

Attached is a report providing the final status of every Senate bill, joint resolution, and resolution that was introduced during the 2023 regular legislative session. The date of the report is July 6, 2023.

MARILYN MILLER
Secretary of the Senate

JASON ELLSWORTH
President of the Senate