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HOUSE BILL NO. 827

INTRODUCED BY L. BREWSTER, N. HASTINGS, D. BAUM, S. ESSMANN, J. ETCHART, M. HOPKINS, E.
(Primary Sponsor)

KERR-CARPENTER, N. NICOL, G. OBLANDER, K. SEEKINS-CROWE, M. YAKAWICH, K. ZOLNIKOV, D.

ZOLNIKOV

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A GRANT TO
CONSTRUCT YEAR-ROUND RECREATIONAL AND CONSERVATION AMENITIES LOCATED AT A
DRINKING WATER STORAGE FACILITY IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
DATE."

WHEREAS, The West End Conservation and Recreation Amenities Project, stands as an integral part
of the West End Reservoir and Water Treatment Plant being developed by the City of Billings. The West End
Reservoir is a water storage facility necessary to ensure a stable drinking water supply for the area. The project
will provide year-round recreational and conservation amenities centered around 160 acres of open water and
150 acres of parkland and open space; and

WHEREAS, the project will be managed through a Memorandum of Understanding with the
Yellowstone Conservation District to not only provide year-round recreational and conservation amenities but
also to allow visitors to experience soil, water, and natural resource conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated the project will include over 5 miles of pedestrian and biking trails, an urban
fishery that features fishing access that meets accessibility standards issued under the Americans With
Disabilities Act, restrooms, a large community shelter, smaller park shelters, parking lots, beachfront, a
whitewater sports park, an interpretive water park, and a soil and water conservation education center; and

WHEREAS, the project is located less than 5 minutes from the Interstate 90 Zoo Drive interchange and
less than 2 minutes from ZooMontana and will offer destination outdoor opportunities to interstate travelers and
the greater region, as well as the citizens of Billings and Yellowstone County; and

WHEREAS, the city of Billings and the Yellowstone Conservation District share mutual interest in the
benefits of clean and safe drinking water, water storage, and providing public recreational and conservation
amenities.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation -- conditions -- administration. (1) There is appropriated \$17 million from the general fund to the department of natural resources and conservation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, for the construction and operation of the west end conservation and recreation amenities project.

(2) The department of natural resources and conservation shall distribute funds on a request basis to the city of Billings as managed through the memorandum of understanding with the Yellowstone conservation district.

(3) A maximum of 10% may be charged by the recipients for administration of the funds.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

- END -