

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

2023 BIENNIUM LEGISLATION

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HB 2 – General Appropriations Act is a temporary appropriations bill which will contain the appropriations for the ordinary operations of state government for the 2023 Biennium. OBPP has kicked off the approximate 8- month process to develop the budget for inclusion in this bill.

HB 3 – The supplemental appropriation bill would include appropriations to state agencies to complete FY 2020. The Office of Budget and Program Planning will evaluate any need for such appropriations over the coming months and make any necessary recommendations to the Governor.

HB 4 – Title 17, Chapter 7, part 4, MCA, defines the process for budget amendment approval. Among other requirements, the statute specifies that an approving authority may not approve a budget amendment if the request is known at a time when the Legislature could have considered the request. In addition, an approving authority may not approve a request to extend beyond June 30 of the last year of a biennium (except federal funds to the end of a federal fiscal year). HB 4 will contain appropriations requests for budget amendments that will extend beyond the end of the biennium and that become known during the 2021 Legislative session.

HB 5 and HB 14 – The Long-Range Building Program was initiated in 1965 to provide funding for construction and maintenance of state buildings. The LRBP was developed in order to present a single, comprehensive, and prioritized plan for allocating state resources for capital construction and maintenance of state-owned facilities. The Department of Administration, Architecture & Engineering Division, is currently in the process of collecting, analyzing, and prioritizing requests to present to the Governor for his approval. A part of the OBPP and Governor's analysis will be a determination of the most appropriate method of financing any recommended projects. HB 5 would contain projects funded with cash while HB 14, if needed, would contain projects funded with bonds.

HB 6 and HB 8 – The Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program offers funding for projects that conserve, manage, develop, and preserve renewable resources to provide economic and other benefits in the state's natural heritage. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) administers the program, which is provided for in Title 85, Chapter 1, part 6, MCA. Governmental entities may apply to the program to obtain funding for community resource-related projects. Project eligibility covers a wide spectrum including irrigation system rehabilitation, stream restoration, watershed management, public water and sewer systems, and resource assessment projects. DNRC is currently in the process of collecting, analyzing, and prioritizing requests to present to the Governor for his approval. Historically, HB 6 has included the projects funded by grants and HB 8 has included projects funded with loans.

HB 7 – The Reclamation and Development Grants Program (RDGP) was established by the Montana Legislature in 1987 to enable funding for projects that indemnify the people of Montana for the effects of mineral development on public resources and that meet other crucial needs serving the public interest and the total environment of the citizens of Montana. Administered by the DNRC, the RDGP fulfills the mission by funding projects that (1) repair, reclaim, and mitigate environmental damage to public resources from non-renewable resource extraction, and (2) develop and ensure the quality of public resources for the benefit of all Montana. The RDGP Act is Title 90, Chapter 2, part 11, MCA. DNRC is currently in the process of collecting, analyzing, and prioritizing requests to present to the Governor for his approval.

HB 9 – The Cultural and Aesthetic Grant Program is administered by the Montana Arts Council. Coal severance tax revenue of 0.63 percent is statutorily allocated to the capital art protection trust fund for funding of the recommended grants. Projects are related to art, history, or other cultural projects. Project applications are submitted to the Montana Arts Council for review and ranking by the 16-member Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Advisory Committee, half of whom are appointed by the Montana Arts Council and half by the Montana Historical Society. The committee is currently in the process of reviewing, ranking, and prioritizing requests to present to the Governor for his approval.

HB 10 – The Long-Range Information Technology (LRIT) program was developed in order to present a single, comprehensive, and prioritized plan for allocating state resources for large scale information technology investments. The Department of Administration, State Information Technology Services Division, is currently in the process of collecting, analyzing, and prioritizing requests to present to the Governor for his approval.

HB 11 – The Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP), administered by the Department of Commerce, is a coal tax funded program designed to assist communities with infrastructure financing as authorized by Montana voters with passage of Legislative Referendum 110 in 1992. The program is defined in Title 90, Chapter 6, part 7, MCA. The Department of Commerce is currently in the process of collecting, analyzing, and prioritizing projects to present to the Governor for his approval.

HB 13 – HB 13 would include statutory changes and funding to implement a pay plan for state employees.

HB 15 – This bill will provide for the necessary statutory changes in K-12 for the inflationary increase to the basic and per-ANB entitlements.