

## **HB 142 Review of Advisory Councils** **Board of Public Assistance**

Prepared by Sue O'Connell  
May 2012

**Statutory Authority:** 2-15-2203 and 53-2-606, MCA

### **Purposes**

- Review proposed decisions on public assistance

### **General Information**

#### *Membership:*

- Three members
- Governor appoints members
- Governor may not appoint a DPHHS employee as a member of the board
- Meets monthly unless no appeals have been filed

#### *Duties and Activities:*

- Review and decide denials of public assistance if denial is appealed
- Provide people who have appealed eligibility decisions made by Department of Public Health and Human Services employees with prompt notice and opportunity for a fair hearing

### **Budget Information**

The budget for board member expenses and agency support totaled about \$23,300 in fiscal year 2011. Of that, about \$3,150 was spent on per-diem and travel reimbursements for the board members. The remainder was for staff support of the board's ongoing activities.

### **Recent Activities**

- Last met on March 15, 2012, to review decisions and appeals
- Next meeting scheduled for May 17, 2012

### **Board of Public Assistance Membership**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Amy Christensen	Helena	1/1/2013
Helen Barta Schmitt	Sidney	1/1/2015
Scott Sorensen	Whitefish	1/1/2013