



Montana Legislative Services Division
Office of the Executive Director

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February 20, 2020

To: Rep. Wendy McKamey, Presiding Officer
Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Presiding Officer
Members of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

From: Susan Byorth Fox, Executive **Director** *J3 CJ-UX=*

Re: Lobbyist Registration Fees and State Government Broadcasting (MPAN)

As provided in 5-11-1112, MCA, \$100 of the lobbyist registration fees is deposited into a state special revenue fund for state government broadcasting. When this statute was enacted in 2001, the thought was that this fee and other donations would fund what was then known as TVMT. When the revenue peaked in 2003, the portion that went to TVMT funded about one-half of the expenditures. However, given the continued growth of the state broadcasting program and the declining revenues, in the next two biennia, the portion of expenditures that the revenue funded was 7% and 12%, respectively.

For 2020 fiscal year we budgeted \$7,778, and for fiscal year 2021 we budgeted \$41,746, for a total of \$59,524. This represents approximately 5% of the total biennial budget for MPAN of \$1,170,547, if those estimated revenues are realized.

Because the remainder of MPAN is funded by the general fund, I would recommend that you consolidate the deposit of the lobbyist registration fee to go to the general fund. It will be easier to budget and simplify the accounting and auditing functions. I have attached a sample bill of the statutes that would need to be amended. As an alternative you could repeal the state special revenue account in 5-11-1112, MCA. We have not received any donations to date, but if you are optimistic, you could leave the account in statute.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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State Administration and Veterans Affairs
Zoom Remote Meeting
February 27, 2020
MPAN Funding and Lobbyist Fees
Exhibit 7