



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division
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Memorandum

To: Transportation Interim Committee members

From: Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics Administrator

Date: December 10, 2019

Subject: HB 661 Implementation Update

HB 661 increased funding to the airport grant account (MCA 67-1-309) and the aeronautics operations account (MCA 67-1-308).

Airport Grant Account

- This account is used to provide grants to local governments for airport development or improvement programs and to provide navigational aids, safety improvements, weather reporting services, and other aeronautical services for airports and landing fields and for the state's airways.
- In FY 2020, the Aeronautics Board awarded the entire available grant funding of \$270,000 to 15 public-use airports.
- For FY 2021, the Aeronautics Board will have \$3.3M of grant funding available which could leverage up to \$33M of needed airport projects. Aeronautics has received 39 applications totaling \$4.7M in requested assistance.

Aeronautics Operations Account

- HB 661 is projected to increase revenues by approximately \$140,000.
- Increased revenues generated by HB 661 are largely generated through aircraft registration fees payable by March 31, 2020 and therefore, most of the anticipated revenues have not been realized by Aeronautics.
- In FY 2020, HB 661 revenues have been utilized to:
 - Conduct Teacher Workshop – Montana educators are introduced to principle-based demonstrations and experiments that can easily and affordably be reproduced in the classroom.
 - Conduct Winter Survival Training - Pilots are taught the skills necessary to survive in the event of an unscheduled off-airport landing
 - Reduce Aviation Conference Registration Fees

In addition, Aeronautics has modified the administrative rules associated with the airport grant program and is in-process to modify Administrative Rules associated with aircraft registration procedures.