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**** BILL NO. ****

INTRODUCED BY ****

BY REQUEST OF THE ****

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CITIZEN-INITIATED CLAIMS TO BE FILED AGAINST THE BOARD OF A LOCAL SPECIAL DISTRICT IF THE BOARD HAS BEEN FOUND IN NONCOMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS; REQUIRING CLAIMS BE REPORTED TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY AND TRAINING DEVELOPED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER; REQUIRING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY TO PAY TRAINING FEES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Local district board oversight -- methods for redress. (1)(a) If at

least 5% of the citizens that are served by a local government entity file a claim against the board of the local government entity for allegations that the board has not complied with statutes applicable to the governance, operation, and function of the board, including but not limited to a violation of public meeting law, the board member appointment or election process, or the actions and duties required of a board member, the claim must be filed with the governing body under whose authority the local government entity was created.

(b) The governing body under whose authority the local government entity was created shall remit claims received under subsection (1)(a) to the county attorney. If the county attorney determines the claim has merit, the local government entity shall participate in training provided by the local government center as provided in subsection (2).

(2) (a) The local government center shall develop a training curriculum appropriate to address the issues detailed in a claim referred by the county attorney to the local government center as allowed in subsection (1)(b).

(b) The board of the local government entity shall participate in all relevant training provided by the local government center.

1 (3) The board of the local government entity shall remit all fees necessary for the training required in
2 subsection (2) to the local government center.

3 (4) The local government center shall report to the local government interim committee, in accordance
4 with 5-11-210, all claims received that resulted in the development and delivery of training required under
5 subsection (2).

6 (5) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

7 (a) "Local government center" means the local government center provided for in 20-25-237.

8 (b) (i) "Local government entity" has the meaning provided in 2-7-501, except as provided in
9 subsection (5)(b)(ii) of this section.

10 (ii) The term does not include a county, consolidated city-county, incorporated city or town, or school
11 district.

12
13 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
14 integral part of Title 7, Chapter 1, Part 2 and the provisions of Title 7, Chapter 1, Part 2 apply to [section 1].

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16 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

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18 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Applicability.** [This act] applies to actions taken on or after [the effective
19 date of this act].

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21 - END -