

OTHER ISSUES

Required Reports

Statute requires state agencies report on civil claims or complaints received each quarter. The Department of Commerce reports the following:

“In accordance with the State’s Settlement of Claims Sunshine and Transparency Act, the Montana Department of Commerce (Commerce) hereby submits its quarterly report to the Legislative Fiscal Division disclosing all civil claims or complaints received during the quarter ending September 30, 2021 seeking \$10,000 or more in monetary compensation.

Commerce and all attached to boards have received **3** civil claims or complaints to report this quarter as detailed below.

- Commerce has one civil claim filed against it in the First Judicial District Court
- The Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission, attached to Commerce for administrative purposes, has two civil claims filed against it with Risk Management and Tort Defense

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Acting Chief Legal Counsel, Amy Barnes.”

These civil claims purport the Department of Commerce acted negligently by not maintaining or repairing premises, in some cases leading to injury.

Line Item Appropriations

- OTBD Primary Business Sector Training (OTO) – A state-funded program that provides grants to primary sector businesses for training of new full and part-time jobs. \$321,000 has been appropriated in FY 2022 and \$240,000 or 74.7% has been expended.
- OTBD Indian Country Economic Development (OTO) – Provides business resources to Native American businesses and tribal governments in Montana through small equity grants, business advisory host funds, and tribal government business planning resources. In FY 2022, \$873,000 was appropriated and \$201,000 or 23.0% has been expended
- OTBD Increase Export Trade Program Funding (OTO) – This funding is used to leverage more state trade and export promotion grant dollars from the Federal Small Business Administration (3:1 match) to continue the purchase of subscription to international market data and increase professional development to improve staff’s proficiency for counseling clients on international trade. \$50,000 was appropriated in FY 2022 and no expenditures have been made
- Taiwan Economic Development and Business Recruitment (Biennial) – The 2021 Legislature reestablished the Taipei, Taiwan Trade Office to promote trade and business attractions. \$500,000 was appropriated and \$101,000 or 20.2% has been expended
- Virginia and Nevada Cities (Restricted/Biennial) – The 2021 Legislature approved a restricted/biennial appropriation for the maintenance of Virginia and Nevada Cities. \$1.0 million was appropriated and \$45,500 or 4.6% has been expended