

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 20

2 INTRODUCED BY D. FERN

3 BY REQUEST OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE MONTANA
6 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
7 DATE."

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9 WHEREAS, the Legislature created the Local Government Center in 1993 to "strengthen the capacities
10 of Montana's local governmental units to deliver essential services efficiently and to provide training, technical
11 assistance, and research to local officials", as provided in section 20-25-237, MCA; and

12 WHEREAS, counties, municipalities, and other local government entities remit fees for necessary
13 training provided by the Local Government Center, and, due to limited staffing, the Local Government Center
14 must prioritize between providing hands-on training and providing mandated technical assistance and
15 publications, resulting in fewer necessary services offered to local governments or a delay in updated
16 publications; and

17 WHEREAS, the Local Government Center requires an additional 2.5 FTE to adequately meet the
18 Center's training, technical assistance, and publication requirements to fully support local government entities to
19 govern fairly, correctly, and effectively; and

20 WHEREAS, to fund two full-time Associate Training and Technical Assistance Specialists and one half-
21 time Administrative Assistant, the Local Government Center requires \$240,000 for salaries and benefits, but the
22 Center intends to maintain the current balance of state funding and local government contributions collected
23 through fees-for-service and thus requests \$190,000 from the state while intending to fund the remaining
24 amount needed to fully support the additional 2.5 FTE with funds raised through local government contributions.

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

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28 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation.** (1) The following money is appropriated from the general

1 fund to the Montana university system to fund the local government center at the Montana state university -
2 Bozeman extension service:

3 Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 \$190,000

4 Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 \$190,000

5 (2) The appropriations in subsection (1) are intended to supplement base funding to the Montana
6 state university extension service for the local government center to fund the positions of two associate
7 specialists and one half-time administrative assistant at the local government center.

8 (3) The legislature intends that the appropriation in fiscal year 2023 be considered part of the
9 ongoing base for the next legislative session.

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11 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

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