

HOUSE BILL NO. 843

INTRODUCED BY S. HOWELL

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO BE USED FOR THE RAPID REHOUSING OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of [this act] is to provide state funds to supplement federal funds received from the emergency solutions grant program for the rapid rehousing of individuals experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Eligible use of funds -- distribution. (1) Funds appropriated to the department of public health and human services in [section 3] may only be used for the purposes of the rapid rehousing assistance component provided in 24 CFR 576.104 of the federal emergency solutions grant program and this section.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), funds appropriated in [section 3] must be distributed in the same manner as funds currently awarded and distributed for the same purpose under the emergency solutions grant program provided for in 24 CFR, part 576.

(b) Funds may be used for rental assistance:

(i) at a rate of up to 150% of the fair market rent as determined in 24 CFR 888.113 by the federal department of housing and urban development; and

(ii) for program participants who have an annual income below 80% of the area median income as determined by the federal department of housing and urban development.

(3) The entirety of the funds appropriated each fiscal year pursuant to [section 3] must be distributed by the last day of the respective fiscal year.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Appropriation.** For the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, there is appropriated from the general fund to the department of public health and human services the following amounts to be distributed as provided in [section 2] for the purposes described in [sections 1 and 2]:

4 Fiscal year 2025 \$1 million

5 Fiscal year 2026 \$1 million

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7 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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