

Amendment - 2nd Reading/2nd House-tan - Requested by: Carl Glimm - (S) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Julie Johnson,

HB0924.002.019

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 924

2 INTRODUCED BY L. JONES, B. LER, C. COCHRAN, E. ALBUS, B. BARKER, D. BEDEY, M. BERTOGLIO, J.

3 FITZPATRICK, J. KARLEN, C. KEOGH, G. PARRY, L. REKSTEN, E. TILLEMAN, P. TUSS, K. WALSH

4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING STATE FINANCE LAWS; CREATING

6 THE MONTANA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY TRUST; PROVIDING FOR TRANSFERS OF VOLATILE

7 REVENUES TO THE TRUST; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL DISTRIBUTIONS OF INTEREST INCOME TO

8 STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS; PROVIDING FOR REINVESTMENT OF A PORTION OF THE

9 TRUST FOR PENSIONS AND HOUSING; PROVIDING FOR CALCULATIONS RELATED TO VOLATILE

10 REVENUE; ESTABLISHING A STATE PROPERTY RELIEF ACCOUNT; ESTABLISHING A MONTANA

11 WATER DEVELOPMENT STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; ESTABLISHING A BETTER LOCAL

12 BRIDGE ACCOUNT; ESTABLISHING A MONTANA EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCOUNT; PROVIDING

13 PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE THAT IS DISTRIBUTED TO COUNTIES TO BE DISTRIBUTED AS A CREDIT

14 TO CERTAIN PRIMARY RESIDENCES; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO CERTIFY

15 PRIMARY RESIDENCES; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR FALSE OR FRAUDULENT PRIMARY RESIDENCE

16 APPLICATIONS; PROVIDING AN APPEALS PROCESS FOR CERTIFICATION OF A PRIMARY RESIDENCE;

17 PROVIDING A DEFINITION; ESTABLISHING A MONTANA EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCOUNT BOARD AND

18 PROVIDING GRANTS; TRANSFERRING AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN HOUSING LOANS FROM THE COAL

19 TAX TRUST FUND TO THE MONTANA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY TRUST; ESTABLISHING A

20 PENSION FUND; REVISING USE OF THE MONTANA HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLVING LOAN

21 FUND; LIMITING THE TRANSFER OF VOLATILE REVENUE WHEN GENERAL FUND DEFICIT IS

22 CERTIFIED OR OPERATING RESERVE IS ESTIMATED AT A CERTAIN AMOUNT; PROVIDING FOR

23 TRANSFERS FROM THE PENSION FUND TO THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OR THE PUBLIC

24 EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM ON CERTIFICATION OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD;

25 PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE TO THE EMPLOYER SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRIBUTION RATE;

26 PROVIDING FOR FUND TRANSFERS; PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS; ESTABLISHING REPORTING

27 REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-7-102, 15-10-420,

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1 15-15-101, 15-15-102, 15-15-103, 15-16-101, 15-17-125, 15-38-302, 17-6-308, 17-6-317, 17-6-801, 17-7-130,
2 17-7-133, 17-7-140, 19-3-316, 19-20-609, 85-1-631, 90-6-137, AND 90-6-603, MCA; AMENDING SECTION 5,
3 CHAPTER 48, LAWS OF 2023, AND SECTION 24, CHAPTER 722, LAWS OF 2023; REPEALING SECTION
4 17-7-134, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

5
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

7
8 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Montana growth and opportunity trust. (1) There is a Montana growth
9 and opportunity trust in the permanent fund type funded by annual transfers of volatile revenues as provided for
10 in [section 4].

11 (2) Transfers into the trust are deposited as follows:

12 (a) one-half into the distribution portion of the trust; and

13 (b) one-half into the reinvestment portion of the trust.

14 (3) (A) Money deposited in the account established in this section must be invested by the board of
15 investments as provided by law.

16 (B) IF ALLOWED BY LAW, THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS MAY INVEST FUNDS IN THE TRUST IN HIGHER-
17 YIELDING INVESTMENTS.

18 (4) A bill appropriating funds from the corpus of the trust must be treated in the same manner as a
19 bill creating state debt and requires a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature for
20 passage.

21
22 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Distributions from Montana growth and opportunity trust. (1) ~~One-~~
23 ~~half of interest~~ Interest earnings from the Montana growth and opportunity trust established in [section 1],
24 ~~except those from the Montana housing trust,~~ are allocated as follows:

25 (a) 20% to the Montana local disaster resiliency fund established in 17-7-133, up to \$15 million a
26 year;

27 (b) 20% to the state property tax ~~relief~~ ASSISTANCE account established in ~~{section 6}~~ [SECTION 13],

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1 up to \$15 million a year;

2 (c) 20% to the Montana water development state special revenue account established in ~~[section~~
3 ~~7]~~ [SECTION 14], up to \$15 million a year;

4 (d) 20% to the better local bridge state special revenue account established in ~~[section 8]~~ [SECTION
5 15], up to \$15 million a year; and

6 (e) 20% to the Montana early childhood state special revenue account established in ~~[section 9]~~
7 [SECTION 16], up to \$15 million a year.

8 (2) Any remaining interest earnings after the distribution in subsection (1) must be transferred into
9 the ~~capital developments long-range building program account established in 17-7-209~~ distribution portion of
10 the MONTANA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY TRUST ESTABLISHED IN [SECTION 1].

11
12 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Reinvestment of growth and opportunity trust. ~~One-half of interest~~
13 ~~earnings AND TRANSFERS Transfers~~ INTO from the Montana growth and opportunity trust established in [section
14 1] are allocated as follows:

15 (1) 50% to the pension fund provided for in ~~[section 10]~~ [SECTION 17] UNTIL THE BALANCE IN THE
16 FUND EQUALS \$750 MILLION; and

17 (2) 50% to a Montana housing infrastructure revolving loan fund provided for in 17-6-801 UNTIL THE
18 BALANCE IN THE FUND EQUALS \$750 MILLION.

19 (3) ANY REMAINING TRANSFER AMOUNT MUST REMAIN IN THE REINVESTMENT PORTION OF THE TRUST AND
20 IS NOT ALLOCATED TO ANY PURPOSE.

21
22 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Volatile revenue -- transfer to Montana growth and opportunity
23 trust. (1) Starting in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and in each subsequent fiscal year by November 1,
24 the state treasurer shall ~~transfer one-half of~~ CALCULATE the amount of volatile revenue from the general fund for
25 that fiscal year. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ONE-FOURTH OF THE AMOUNT OF VOLATILE REVENUE BY
26 NOVEMBER 1 AND ONE-FOURTH OF THE AMOUNT OF VOLATILE REVENUE BY MAY 1 to the Montana growth and
27 opportunity trust established in [section 1].