

HOUSE BILL NO. 256

INTRODUCED BY K. WALSH, W. GALT, E. ALBUS, D. BEDEY, W. CURDY, B. GILLESPIE, L. JONES, R.
MINER, J. COHENOUR, P. TUSS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE MONTANA WATER DEVELOPMENT STATE
SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; ALLOWING FOR AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES RELATED TO WATER
DEVELOPMENTS; PROVIDING FOR FUND TRANSFERS; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-38-302 AND 85-1-631,
MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Montana water development state special revenue account. (1) (a)

There is a Montana water development state special revenue fund as provided for in 17-2-102.

(b) The fund retains its own interest.

(c) The account is composed of revenue gifted to the state or transferred to the account by the
legislature and interest generated by the account.

(2) Ninety percent of the earnings from the investment must be distributed to the water storage
state special revenue account established in 85-1-631. Ten percent of the earnings from the investment must
be distributed to the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 to be
used for water storage pilot projects and dam inspections required under 85-15-213.

Section 2. Section 15-38-302, MCA, is amended to read:

**"15-38-302. Natural resources projects state special revenue account created -- revenue
allocated -- limitations on appropriations from account.** (1) There is a natural resources projects state
special revenue account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) There must be paid into the natural resources projects state special revenue account ~~money~~
~~allocated from~~:

(a) the interest income of the resource indemnity trust fund under the provisions of 15-38-202;

Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Jane Gillette - (H) Appropriations

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Julie Johnson,

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1 investments and accrue interest, which must be deposited in the water storage state special revenue account.
2 (6) The purpose of the water storage state special revenue account is to provide money
3 exclusively for construction, operation, rehabilitation, expansion, maintenance, and modification of state-owned
4 water storage projects."
5

6 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Transfer of funds.** The state treasurer shall transfer:

7 (1) \$50 million from the general fund to the Montana water development state special revenue
8 account established in [section 1] by [30 days after the effective date of this act];

9 ~~(4)(2)~~ \$50 million from the general fund to the Montana water development state special revenue
10 account established in [section 1] by August 1, 2025; and

11 ~~(2)(3)~~ \$50 million from the general fund to the Montana water development state special revenue
12 account established in [section 1] by August 1, 2026.
13

14 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
15 integral part of Title 85, chapter 1, part 3, and the provisions of Title 85, chapter 1, part 3, apply to [section 1].
16

17 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.
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