

**Amendment - 1st Reading/2nd House-blue - Requested by: John Esp - (S) Finance and Claims**

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Julie Johnson,

HB0511.003.001

HOUSE BILL NO. 511

INTRODUCED BY S. DEMAROIS, S. NOVAK, J. REAVIS, B. EDWARDS, J. ISALY, M. LEE, P. STRAND, T. CROWE, J. SECKINGER, B. CLOSE, P. ELVERUM, S. FYANT, J. WEBER, J. SOOKTIS, M. CUNNINGHAM, S. ROSENZWEIG, E. TILLEMAN, E. BUTTREY, E. MATTHEWS, T. RUNNING WOLF, F. SMITH, M. FOX, G. LAMMERS, D. BAUM, M. CAFERRO, B. CARTER, J. COHENOUR, J. FITZPATRICK, T. FRANCE, D. HAWK, S. HOWELL, J. KARLEN, C. KEOGH, G. NIKOLAKAKOS, M. ROMANO, K. SULLIVAN, M. THANE, Z. ZEPHYR, M. MARLER, D. JOY, C. FITZPATRICK, J. LYNCH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING A FIREFIGHTING TRAINING FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PROJECTS, AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; REQUIRING MATCHING FUNDS ON A ONE-TO-ONE BASIS; ALLOWING APPROPRIATIONS TO CONTINUE INTO THE 2027 AND 2029 BIENNIUMS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Definitions.** For the purposes of [sections 1 through 6], unless otherwise provided, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Department" means the department of military affairs established in 2-15-1201.
- (2) "Local government firefighting authority" means a governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Firefighting training facility infrastructure account -- use.** (1) There is a firefighting training facility infrastructure account within the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102 to provide grant funding to local government firefighting authorities that provide firefighting services and for administrative costs related to administering the grants. The department shall administer the account.

- (2) Up to 3% of the funds appropriated in [section 8] may be allocated for the department's

**Amendment - 1st Reading/2nd House-blue - Requested by: John Esp - (S) Finance and Claims**

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Julie Johnson,

HB0511.003.001

1 administrative costs.

2

3 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Firefighting training facility infrastructure grants authorization.** (1)

4 The department is authorized to make up to \$5 million in grants to local government firefighting authorities for  
5 property acquisition, construction, space acquisition, remodeling, repairs, and the purchase of appliances and  
6 equipment. The grants authorized in this section are subject to the conditions set forth in [section 5].

7 (2) The department shall receive proposals from local government firefighting authorities for  
8 firefighting training facility infrastructure projects.

9 (3) Funding for projects may be provided only as long as there are sufficient funds available from  
10 the amount that was deposited or transferred in the firefighting training facility infrastructure account for grants  
11 established in [section 2]. Funding for these projects must be made available in the order that the grant  
12 recipients satisfy the conditions described in [section 5].

13

14 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Eligibility -- submission deadline -- priority -- guidelines.** (1) A local  
15 government firefighting authority may apply to the department for firefighting training facility infrastructure grants  
16 under [section 3].

17 (2) Local government firefighting authorities shall submit grant applications to the department in  
18 order to be eligible for funding under [section 3].

19 (3) The department is authorized to adopt guidelines necessary to implement [sections 3 through  
20 5].

21

22 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Condition of grants -- disbursement of funds.** (1) The disbursement of  
23 grant funds for the projects chosen by the department pursuant to [section 3] is subject to the following  
24 conditions:

25 (a) ~~for grants in an amount of \$25,000 or more, the department may require a grant recipient to~~  
26 ~~provide a 1% match in cash or donated services to be eligible to receive a grant~~ the grant recipient shall  
27 document the availability of matching funds at least \$1 in value for each \$1 of the grant;