

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; 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 administrative costs.

department to accomplish the purpose of the project as evidenced by the application to the department.

(2) Projects must adhere to the design standards required by applicable regulations. Recipients of program funds for projects that are not subject to any design standards shall comply with generally accepted industry standards.

(3) If actual project expenses are lower than the projected expense of the project, the department shall reduce the amount of grant funds to be provided to grant recipients.

NEW SECTION. Section 6. Maximum state funding available -- for each project -- for each county. (1) The amount of state funding allocated to entities within an individual county under [sections 3 through 5] may not exceed \$500,000. No more than two applications may be funded in any one county.

(2) The amount of a grant to a single project may not exceed \$250,000.

NEW SECTION. Section 7. Transfer of funds. By ~~July 4~~ July 15, 2025, the state treasurer shall transfer \$5 million from the general fund to the firefighting training facility infrastructure account established in [section 2].

NEW SECTION. Section 8. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$5 million from the firefighting training facility infrastructure account established in [section 2] to the department of military affairs for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, for grants authorized in [sections 3 through 5]. Appropriations are authorized to continue through the biennium beginning July 1, 2029.

NEW SECTION. Section 9. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

NEW SECTION. Section 10. Termination. [This act] terminates June 30, 2031.

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