

HOUSE BILL NO. 182

INTRODUCED BY J. FITZPATRICK, L. BENNETT, V. MOORE, D. HARVEY, J. KASSMIER, G. LAMMERS, K.

WALSH, B. BARKER, C. KEOGH, P. TUSS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING A SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PROJECTS, AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; ALLOWING APPROPRIATIONS TO CONTINUE INTO THE 2027 AND 2029 BIENNIUMS; PROVIDING AN EXCLUSION FROM CERTAIN PARTS IN TITLE 75; 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) "Senior citizen" means a person over 60 years of age.

(2) (a) "Senior citizen center" means a facility operated by a nonprofit corporation or a governmental organization that provides services to senior citizens in the form of daytime or evening meals, educational programs, or recreational activities. Services qualifying under this definition must be recognized in the state plan on aging adopted by the department of public health and human services.

(b) The term does not include a facility that provides living accommodations to senior citizens.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Senior citizen center infrastructure account -- use. (1) There is a senior citizen center infrastructure account within the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102 to provide grant funding to nonprofit corporations that provide services to senior citizens and for administrative costs related to administering the grants. The department of commerce shall administer the account.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Senior citizen center infrastructure grants authorization. (1) The

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

(2) The department of commerce must receive proposals from nonprofit corporations for senior citizen center infrastructure projects.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Eligibility -- submission deadline -- priority -- guidelines. (1) A

nonprofit corporation may apply to the department of commerce for senior citizen center infrastructure grants under [section 3].

(2) Nonprofit corporations shall submit grant applications to the department of commerce in order to be eligible for funding under [section 3].

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

NEW SECTION. Section 5. Condition of grants -- disbursement of funds. (1) The disbursement of

grant funds for the projects chosen by the department of commerce pursuant to [section 3] is subject to the following conditions:

(a) for grants in an amount of \$25,000 or more, the grant recipient shall document the availability of matching funds or in-kind contribution of assets with an appraised value from private sources representing at least \$1 in value for each \$1 of the grant;

(b) the grant recipient shall execute a grant agreement with the department of commerce that includes a project management plan and reporting requirements to track the outcomes of allocated grants; and

(c) the grant recipient shall satisfy other specific requirements considered necessary by the

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

(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 must comply with generally accepted industry standards.

(3) If actual project expenses are lower than the projected expense of the project, the department of commerce 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 any individual county under [sections 3 through 5] may not exceed \$350,000. No more than two applications may be funded in any one county.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 7. Exclusion. The provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, do not apply to the provisions of [this act].

NEW SECTION. Section 8. Transfer of funds. By July 1, 2025, the state treasurer shall transfer \$5 million from the general fund to the senior citizen center infrastructure account established in [section 2].

NEW SECTION. Section 9. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$5 million from the senior citizen center infrastructure account established in [section 2] to the department of commerce 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 10. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

NEW SECTION. Section 11. Termination. [This act] terminates June 30, 2031.

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