

SENATE BILL NO. 260

INTRODUCED BY G. HERTZ, C. NEUMANN, A. GRIFFITH, L. JONES

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ALTERATION OF ~~SERVICE~~ DISTRICT BOUNDARIES FOR ~~CERTAIN PURPOSES~~; PROVIDING THAT THE PURPOSES INCLUDE AN INABILITY TO ACCESS PUBLIC SERVICES OR IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR PETITION, PUBLIC HEARING, AND ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR ALTERING ~~SERVICE~~ HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES; PROVIDING FOR THE SHARING OF TAX COLLECTIONS WHEN HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ARE ALTERED; PROVIDING FOR RECONCILIATION PAYMENTS BETWEEN CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHEN ISOLATED PUPILS ARE INVOLVED; ESTABLISHING A PROCESS FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO SEEK A RECONCILIATION PAYMENT BY PETITIONING THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT AND PAYING A PROCESSING FEE; PROVIDING THAT THE TAXABLE VALUE OF TERRITORY TRANSFERRED BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS IS SPLIT BETWEEN THE DISTRICTS FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS; PROVIDING FOR PAYMENTS BETWEEN DISTRICTS FOLLOWING A TERRITORY TRANSFER IF A RECONCILIATION PAYMENT WAS MADE PREVIOUSLY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 20-6-105, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Definitions.** For the purposes of [sections 1 through 8], the following definitions apply:

(1) "HOSPITAL DISTRICT" MEANS A DISTRICT CREATED PURSUANT TO TITLE 7, CHAPTER 34, PART 21.

~~(1)(2)~~ "Inability to access public services" means the inability of a real property owner to reach public services in the county in which the owner's property is located due to:

(a) a physical or geographical barrier;

(b) a lack of PUBLIC county or PUBLIC county-maintained roads; or

(c) a lack of legal access on ~~existing~~ PRIVATE roads ~~that would require the owner to~~, REQUIRING

**Amendment - 2nd Reading/2nd House-tan - Requested by: Ken Walsh - (H) Committee of the Whole**

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Megan Moore,

SB0260.003.001

1 travel ~~through~~ INTO an adjacent county and ~~then~~ back into the county in which the owner's property is located;

2 OR

3 (D) ACCESS ON ROADS THAT REQUIRE AMBULANCES TO TRAVEL MORE THAN 60 MINUTES TO REACH THE  
4 PROPERTY WHEN FOLLOWING ALL SPEED LIMITS.

5 ~~(2) "Public safety services" means law enforcement, firefighting, hospital, ambulance, or~~  
6 ~~emergency medical services offered to the general public.~~

7 (3) "Public services" means any of the following that are offered to the general public:

8 ~~(a) county services and facilities;~~

9 ~~(b)(a)~~ educational services and facilities; or

10 ~~(c)(b)~~ hospital or emergency medical services and facilities.

11 (4) ~~(a)~~ "Qualified petitioner" means:

12 (A) FOR A PETITION RELATED TO A HOSPITAL DISTRICT, an owner of real property in a service-LOCATED  
13 WITHIN THE HOSPITAL district:

14 (i) whose property is more quickly REASONABLY accessible to ~~public safety services or public~~  
15 ~~services~~ headquartered in the county seat or closest city, town, resort community, resort area, or resort area  
16 district of an adjoining county than to ~~public safety services or public services~~ headquartered in the county seat  
17 or closest city, town, resort community, resort area, or resort area district of the county in which the owner's  
18 property is located, or

19 (ii) from whose property the owner has an inability to access public services from the county seat  
20 or closest city, town, resort community, resort area, or resort area district of the county in which the owner's  
21 property is located;

22 (B) FOR A PETITION RELATED TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A PETITION DESCRIBED IN 20-6-105.

23 ~~(b) For the purposes of [sections 1 through 8], a qualified petitioner includes a real property owner~~  
24 ~~that is a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or trust regardless of the state of principal domicile.~~

25 ~~(5) "Service district" means a hospital district created under Title 7, chapter 34, part 21, or a school~~  
26 ~~district created under Title 20, chapter 6.~~

27 (5) "SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT CREATED UNDER TITLE 20, CHAPTER 6.