

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

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Julie Johnson,

HB0876.002.001

HOUSE BILL NO. 876

INTRODUCED BY J. FITZPATRICK, C. KEOGH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE SAWMILL REVITALIZATION SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS TO PROVIDE LOANS TO PARTIES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING FOR A FUND TRANSFER; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Sawmill revitalization special revenue account.** (1) There is a sawmill revitalization special revenue account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) ~~Before June 30, 2025, the state treasurer shall transfer \$6 million from the big sky economic development fund to the sawmill revitalization account.~~

~~(3)(2)~~ The board of investments shall administer money deposited in the account in accordance with the Montana In-State Investment Act, Title 17, chapter 6, part 3.

~~(4)(3)~~ The board shall make loans at an interest rate not to exceed 3% 4% from this account to parties with the capacity to revitalize a closed sawmill and return it to commercial operation, ~~with:~~

~~(a) first priority given to an applicant wishing to revitalize a sawmill closed during the 12 months preceding January 1, 2025; and~~

~~(b) second priority given to an applicant wishing to revitalize a sawmill closed more than 12 months but less than 36 48 months before January 1, 2025.~~

**NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.** BY JUNE 30, 2025, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER \$6 MILLION FROM THE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS LONG-RANGE BUILDING PROGRAM ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED IN 17-7-209 TO THE SAWMILL REVITALIZATION SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT PROVIDED FOR IN [SECTION 1].

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NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation. (1) There is appropriated \$6 million from the sawmill revitalization account in [section 1] to the board of investments for the ~~fiscal year~~ BIENNIUM ending June 30, 2026 2027, to provide loans to parties with the capacity to revitalize a closed sawmill and return it to commercial operation pursuant to [this act].

(2) Money from this appropriation that is not spent during the biennium must revert to the ~~big sky economic development fund~~ CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS LONG-RANGE BUILDING PROGRAM ACCOUNT.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 90, chapter 1, and the provisions of Title 90, chapter 1, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. [THIS ACT] IS EFFECTIVE ON PASSAGE AND APPROVAL.

NEW SECTION. Section 6. Termination. [This act] terminates December 31, 2026 JUNE 30, 2027.

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