



OPI LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Putting Montana Students First At

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

- HB 2 General Appropriations Act
- HB 41 Extend the Cultural Integrity and Commitment Act (language immersion programs)
- HB 127 Generally revise laws related to state payments to schools
- HB 153 Generally revise education laws related to gifted and talented programs
- HB 159- Generally revise education funding laws
- •HB 175 Provide for state employee pay plan (Increase travel per diem)
- •HB 190 Revise local government authority to set school zone speed limits
- HB 204 Generally revise teachers' retirement system laws
- •HB 211 Address recruitment and retention of K-12 quality educators
- •HB 237 Allow school district bond issuance for a term of up to 30 years
- B 247 Provide greater flexibility for school districts in financing major maintenance
- HB 319 Revise agency fund terminology
- •HB 351 Encourage transformational learning
- •HB 387 Create advanced opportunity act for Montana students
- B 388 Generally revise education laws related to students with exceptional needs
- HB 413 Address vaping in schools
- HB 576 Revise school finance laws related to gifts and endowments
- •HB 601 Transfer funds within OPI for school safety professional development grants
- HB 619- Revise student data privacy laws
- •HB 631 Create public private partnership to help workers in targeted industries
- ■HB 636 Revise laws related to protested taxes
- HB 638 Increasing K-12 special education allowable cost payment
- •HB 643 Extend state lands reimbursement block grant for schools
- •HB 652 Revise the long range building bonding program
- •HB 657 Study community college funding formula and CTE funding

- ■HB 662 Implement provisions of HB2, Sec E Education
- HB 745 Enact a student online personal information protection act
- •HJ 3 Interim study resolution on accessibility for disabled electors
- •HJ 10 Study resolution to address American Indian voting
- •HJ 39 Requesting Legislative Performance Audit on combining administration of TRS & MPERA
- SB 2 Allow government accounting standards to include DOA framework
- SB 9 Revise school funding related to overestimated ANB increases
- SB 10 Revise school funding related to major maintenance aid
- SB 11 Clarify age requirements related to the definition of pupil
- •SB 12 Revise school funding related to oil and gas production taxes
- SB 16 Revise school funding related to special education joint boards
- SB 35 Generally revise school safety laws
- SB 40 Require OPI to create and maintain electronic directory photograph repository
- SB 58 Revise the Montana Bank Act
- SB 92 Generally revise laws related to school safety
- SB 130 Revise school election law
- SB 132 Creating a student safety accountability act
- SB 139 Revise retiree return to work provisions in teachers' retirement system
- SB 140 Establish the Montana dyslexia screening and intervention act
- SB 148 Allow late registrant absentee ballots to be dropped off at polling locations
- SB 162 Generally revise election laws
- SB 197 Generally revise education laws related to Montana youth challenge academy
- SB 291 Revise laws on voting systems and ballot form
- SB 292 Revise laws related to financial administration of school districts
- SB 302 Generally revise laws related to local government budgeting and accounting
- SB 321 Revise laws pertaining to targeted economic development districts
- SB 328 Authorize local abatement of coal gross proceeds tax for surface mines



HB 2 – GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Bill Overview:

- HB 2 is the state's feed bill, but also provides for school funding components.
- This includes:
 - Funding the inflationary increase in the At Risk component.
 - Restoring full funding for Pupil Transportation.
 - Providing state major maintenance aid funding for school districts.

- Pay attention to how to budget for the state major maintenance aid in the building reserve funding (if a school district chooses to participate).
- Questions about HB 2 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





<u>HB 41 - EXTEND THE CULTURAL INTEGRITY AND</u> <u>COMMITMENT ACT</u>

Bill Overview: HB 41 extends the Indian language immersion program <u>including funding</u> for school districts and extends the Cultural Integrity and Commitment Act passed with SB 272 (2015), adjusting the legislative termination date to June 30, 2023.

Determining district eligibility

- Districts must meet all conditions (by the deadline listed below, as applicable):
 - The language immersion program is in a Montana Tribal language (includes the language of the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe).
 - The language immersion program instructor(s) holds a current Class 7 certificate.
 - All students in the language immersion program receive content area instruction in an Indian language at least 50% of the day.
 - All student participation data, October AIM and Fall ANB data is entered into the online system by the deadline.
 - The district Superintendent and Board Chair complete, sign, and return the OPI Assurances Checklist by the deadline.

School To Do List:

- Participating school districts:
 - Notify the Office of Public Instruction that they are planning or considering applying for receipt of Language Immersion Program funds in the 2019-20 Academic Year by July 31, 2019, by contacting Michelle Mitchell, American Indian Student Achievement Director, <u>Michelle.Mitchell@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3013.

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- The Office of Public Instruction will then send the Assurances Checklist to participating districts by August 16, 2019.
- School District enters student participation, AIM, and Fall ANB data on the Assurances Checklist by October 7, 2019.
- School Superintendent and Board Chair complete and sign the Assurances Checklist by October 25, 2019.
- Schools receive payment by November 30, 2019.
- Questions about HB 41 can be directed to Kathleen Wanner, <u>KWanner@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-9852.



HB 127 - GENERALLY REVISE LAWS RELATED TO STATE PAYMENTS TO SCHOOLS

Bill Overview: HB 127 amends section 20-9-344, MCA, by adjusting the state school payment schedule.

- The Guaranteed Tax Base Aid (GTB) payment currently distributed in November will be paid in December.
- The Direct State Aid, Quality Educator Component, At Risk Component, Indian Education for All, Student Achievement Gap, Special Education, State Lands Block Grant, and Data for Achievement payments normally distributed in December will be paid in November.
- The change better aligns the large GTB payment with state revenue from property taxes.
- The coal mitigation block grant is still paid in November.

- Ensure the district has accounted for the change in payment amounts from November to December. November was a larger amount.
- Questions about HB 127 can be directed to Kathleen Wanner, <u>KWanner@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-9852.





HB 153 - GENERALLY REVISE EDUCATION LAWS RELATED TO GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS

Bill Overview: HB 153 amends section 20-7-904, MCA, which specifies the requirements for schools to apply for and the OPI to approve, grants for programs for gifted and talented children.

- The revision adds a requirement for the OPI to report to the governor and the legislature by September 15 of even-numbered years on the status and effectiveness of programs serving gifted and talented students.
- The report must include the total number of schools applying for and receiving funds from the OPI, a breakdown by school size, a description of the ways in which districts include a child's parents in the evaluation process, the number of students evaluated and identified, a description of the training provided to teachers, a description of services provided to gifted and talented students, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of gifted and talented programs.

- Prepare for gifted and talented program reporting, even if the OPI does not provide funding to the districts.
- Questions about HB 153 can be directed to Frank Podobnik, <u>FPodobnik@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4428.





HB 159 - GENERALLY REVISE EDUCATION FUNDING LAWS

<u>Bill Overview</u>: HB 159 provides inflationary increases of 0.91 percent for FY 2020 and 1.83 percent for FY 2021 to the funding components of school district general fund budgets.

The increases are applied to the basic and per-ANB entitlements, the Quality Educator payment, the Indian Education for All
payment, the At-risk Student payment, the American Indian Achievement Gap payment, and the Data for Achievement
payment.

(Note: The inflationary increase for the At-risk Student payment is not included in HB 159; it is a line item appropriation in HB 2.)

- Additionally, HB 159 includes legislative intent that funding is to be appropriated for the natural resources development K-12 school facilities payment as follows:
- Calculated as the greater of:
 - \$6.4 million in fiscal year 2020, \$7.6 million in fiscal year 2021, and \$10 million in fiscal year 2022, and \$10 million in fiscal year 2023, with each fiscal year's appropriation reduced by the amount of projected earnings from the school facilities fund pursuant to 17-5-703 for that fiscal year
 - or 5% of the oil and natural gas production taxes deposited in the general fund pursuant to 15-36-331(4) for the fiscal year occurring 2 fiscal years prior to the fiscal year of the payment.
- For fiscal years 2024 and beyond the appropriation for the natural resources development K-12 school facilities payment will be calculated as the greater of: \$10 million increased by an inflationary adjustment calculated as provided in 20-9-326 applied in fiscal year 2024 and in each succeeding fiscal year or 5% of the oil and natural gas production taxes deposited in the general fund pursuant to section 15-36-331(4), MCA for the fiscal year occurring 2 fiscal years prior to the fiscal year of the payment.



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HB 159 - GENERALLY REVISE EDUCATION FUNDING LAWS (CONTINUED)

- FY 2020 Data Sheets distributed by the OPI reflected the increased rates in HB 159.
- Ensure school districts understand how the State Major Maintenance Aid payment is calculated and if the district wishes to participate, the district <u>must</u> levy locally to be eligible.
- If the district has not levied previously and did not notice a levy increase, the district <u>cannot</u> levy in FY 2020.
- Questions about HB 159 can be directed to Paul Taylor, <u>PTaylor2@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-1257.





HB 175 - PROVIDE FOR STATE EMPLOYEE PAY PLAN

Bill Overview: HB 175 amends section 2-18-501, MCA, to adjust the state employee pay rates by \$0.50 each fiscal year and provide an increase of \$2.50 per meal for the travel per diem rates.

- If the district matches state travel per diem rates, be aware the rates increase on July 1st, 2019 to:
 - Breakfast \$7.50 Was \$5.00
 - Lunch \$8.50 Was \$6.00
 - Dinner \$14.50 Was \$12.00
- Questions about HB175 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





HB 190 - REVISE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO SET SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS

Bill Overview: HB 190 amends section 61-8-310, MCA, which allows local authorities to adjust the speed limit in a school zone. This bill change will allow the county commissioners to set the limit of school zones to no less than 15 miles per hour.

- If the district is concerned about speed limits in school zones, the local county commissioners can set school zone speed limits.
- Questions about HB 190 can be directed to Donell Rosenthal, <u>DRosenthal@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3024.





HB 204 - GENERALLY REVISE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM LAWS

Bill Overview: HB 204 is a cleanup bill for the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS).

- Requires TRS employers to submit a wage and contribution report for each month of the year, even if they had no activity (\$0 contribution report).
- Clarifies the transition between active member status, inactive member status and dormant member status.
- Reconciles the state supplemental contribution in 19-20-607 with the regular employer contribution rates contained in 19-20-605.
- Clarifies that TRS does not pay a "withdrawal" but instead pays a "refund" upon a withdrawal from membership.
- Replaces references to "next of kin" with "alternate beneficiary" which is a non-designated beneficiary that becomes a valid beneficiary based on the hierarchy of relationship to the member.
- Clarifies the requirements for a beneficiary designation to be effective, requirements for reducing or revoking the interests of a spouse, opportunity to name a custodian for a minor child and the supremacy of TRS statutes related to beneficiary designations.

- Ensure school districts are reporting the TRS contributions monthly, including the June month, instead of waiting until the next school year to report.
- Review the TRS legislative update information located on their webpage at <u>https://trs.mt.gov/miscellaneous/PdfFiles/Information/legislation/2019LegUpdate.pdf</u>.
- Additional questions about this bill should be directed to the Teacher Retirement System.



HB 211 - ADDRESS RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF K-12 QUALITY EDUCATORS

Bill Overview: HB 211 renews the quality educator loan assistance program as a teacher recruitment and retention aid for rural schools, and moves the responsibility for administering the program from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to the OPI.

- The substance of the program is that newly hired teachers who teach a subject that has been identified as a "critical quality educator shortage area" at an "impacted school" are eligible to receive state paid loan assistance up to \$3,000 in their first year, \$4,000 in their second year, and \$5,000 in their third year so long as they remain full time employees at an impacted school. The local school district has the option to make a fourth-year payment of up to \$5,000.
- The payments are made directly to the lender and are exempt from Montana income tax.
- Impacted schools and critical quality educator shortage areas are contained in the "Critical Quality Educator Shortage Report" presented to the Board of Public Education (BPE) by the OPI for approval and publication by December 1 of each year.
- The bill amends the definition of "impacted school" to be any public school that is greater than a 20-minute drive from a Montana city with a population greater than 15,000 as well as all special education cooperatives, the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, the Montana Youth Challenge program, a state youth correctional facility, or a public school located on an Indian reservation. This new definition expands the number of schools meeting this definition from approximately 420 to approximately 670.



<u>HB 211 - ADDRESS RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION</u> OF K-12 QUALITY EDUCATORS (CONTINUED)

Bill Overview (continued):

- HB 211 defines critical quality educator shortage areas to mean a specific licensure or endorsement area in an impacted school which in any of the past three years has experienced a recruitment with less than five qualified applicants, a position that was advertised and remained vacant due to a lack of any qualified applicants for 30 days, or a position filled by a retired teacher, a teacher with a class five license, or via an emergency authorization.
- Also, the bill sets up a process whereby a school district can apply to the BPE for an immediate designation of a critical shortage due to a current recruitment which meets any of the criteria.
- The bill appropriates \$500,000 per year for the program. If the appropriation is not sufficient to pay all qualifying loan assistance applications, the repayment assistance payments must be prorated accordingly.

- School districts should know if the district qualifies as a "critical quality educator shortage area".
- If the district does qualify, the repayment program may be used as incentive to hire teachers; however, this bill is limited in funding so no guarantees can be made.
- Questions about HB 211 can be directed to Ken Bailey, <u>KBailey2@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-2562.





HB 237 - ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ISSUANCE FOR A TERM OF UP TO 30 YEARS

Bill Overview: HB 237 amends section 20-9-10, MCA, to allow school districts to issue a bond for up to 30 years without restrictions related to comparable bond rates on 20-year loans.

- Know the options available to the district and weight out the cost of the additional 10 year term.
- Questions about HB 237 can be directed to Kathleen Wanner, <u>KWanner@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-9852.





HB 247 - PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN FINANCING MAJOR MAINTENANCE

Bill Overview: HB 247 amends sections 20-9-471, 20-9-525, and 20-7-457, MCA, revising funding related to major maintenance projects by authorizing district trustees to issue obligations for limited purposes to certain financial institutions, specifically, a bank, building and loan association, savings and loan association, or credit union that is a regulated lender, as defined in section 31-1-111, MCA, in addition to the board of investments.

• HB 247 requires trustees to give the board of investments the right of first refusal for these loans and clarifies the authority of trustees to utilize revenues in the building reserve fund to repay these obligations.

- Know the options available to the district. Be sure to check with the Board of Investments for first refusal.
- Questions about HB 247 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





HB 319 - REVISE AGENCY FUND TERMINOLOGY

Bill Overview: HB 319 amends sections 2-7-505, 2-18-402, 17-2-102, 17-2-105, 17-2-202, 17-8-101, 20-9-201, 39-3-213, 90-6-304, MCA. The language in the statute includes section 20-9-201, MCA, which defines fund types including the custodial fund, previously called the agency fund. This bill aligns state finance law with financial standards by renaming the agency fund the more appropriate custodial fund.

- Update the naming of the fund from agency fund to custodial fund, and participate in the School Accounting Manual workgroup starting this summer. To join e-mail Rehanna Olson, <u>Rolson2@mt.gov</u>.
- Questions about HB 319 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





HB 351 - ENCOURAGE TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING

Bill Overview: HB 351 amends section 20-9-116, MCA, and revises education laws to support transformational learning which is defined in the bill as a flexible system of pupil-centered learning that is designed to develop the full educational potential of each pupil that:

- is customized to address each pupil's strengths, needs, and interests; includes continued focus on each pupil's proficiency over content; and actively engages each pupil in determining what, how, when, and where each pupil learns.
- State aid termed transformational learning aid is to be provided to districts on an intricate "first come first served" schedule on a four-year qualification and payment cycle.
- Qualifying districts are provided limited permissive levy and transfer authority while implementing a qualified transformational learning plan.
- An appropriation of \$2.6 M from the state general fund is provided for distributions of transformational learning aid to begin in the 2021 biennium and the termination date of June 30, 2027 is provided.

- If the district is interested in expanding or adding a transitional learning program, the district needs to watch for the application to be posted (most likely on the OPI and BPE websites and through the E-Grants system) and submit the application ASAP since it is first come first serve basis.
- The application window is October 1 November 1. Therefore, a district will not be able to levy locally in FY 2020 because the
 applications will not be awarded in time. Schools awarded grants will need to complete a budget amendment.
- In future years the application deadline will likely be July 1 September 1.
- Check with the Board of Public Education for updates.
- Questions about HB 351 can be directed to Jule Walker, <u>Jule.Walker@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-7325.





HB 387 - CREATE ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY ACT FOR MONTANA STUDENTS

Bill Overview: HB 387 amends section 20-7-701, MCA, and creates the Montana Advanced Opportunity Act, defined as any course, exam, experiential, online, or other learning opportunity that is incorporated in a district's advanced opportunity plan and that is designed to advance each qualifying pupil's opportunity for postsecondary career and educational success.

- State aid termed advanced opportunity aid is to be provided to districts on a "first come first served" schedule including an annual qualification and payment cycle.
- At least 60% of the advanced opportunity aid is to be expended for the purposes of advanced opportunities and up to 40% maybe expended for career and technical/vocational education.
- Qualifying districts are permitted to make expenditures from the adult education fund for the purposes of advanced opportunities in an amount up to 25% of state provided advanced opportunity aid.
- An appropriation of \$750,000 from the state general fund is provided for distributions of advanced opportunity aid to begin in FY 2021.

- If the district is interested in the advanced opportunity act, the district needs to watch for the application to be posted (most likely on the OPI and BPE websites and through the E-Grants system) and submit the application ASAP since it is first come first serve basis.
- The application deadline will likely be July 1 September 1, districts may be able to levy in FY 2021 for the allowed amount of local levy.
- Questions about HB 387 can be directed to Jule Walker, <u>Jule.Walker@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-7325.



HB 388 - GENERALLY REVISE EDUCATION LAWS RELATED TO STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS

Bill Overview: HB 388 amends section 20-7-435, MCA, to allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction to distribute funds appropriated for contracts with in-state children's psychiatric hospitals or residential treatment facilities to public school districts.

- The purpose of the distribution is to support educational programs for children with significant behavioral or physical needs.
- This distribution has been authorized by language in HB 2, which is no longer necessary.

- No changes to this fund, this is how the OPI has administered the program in the past.
- Questions about HB 388 can be directed to Frank Podobnik, <u>FPodobnik@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4428.





HB 413 - ADDRESS VAPING IN SCHOOLS

<u>Bill Overview</u>: HB 413 amends section 20-1-220, MCA, prohibiting the use of tobacco products on public school property. The amended language extends the prohibition on the use of tobacco products on public school property to vapor products, or alternative nicotine products.

- The amended language does allow tobacco, vapor, or alternative nicotine products to be used in a classroom or on other school property as a part of a lecture, demonstration, or education forum, if it is sanctioned by a school administrator or faculty member, to demonstrate the risks associated with using those products.
- Another exception that the bill allows is the use of smoking cessation products.

- School signage indicating vapor or alternative nicotine products are not allowed on school property should be updated or added to the school grounds.
- Keep an eye out for the application process for the safety grants. Contact Tracy Moseman for more information, <u>TMoseman@mt.gov</u> or 444-3000.





HB 576 - REVISE SCHOOL FINANCE LAWS RELATED TO GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS

Bill Overview: HB 576 amends section 20-9-604, MCA, relating to donations made to the endowment fund in school districts.

- This change in law allows school districts to deposit donations in any budgeted or non-budgeted fund if the donor does not specify the purpose of the funds.
- The language also allows previously donated endowment funds with no specific designation to be moved to another fund at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.
- The legislature also encourages school district trustees to adopt a gift acceptance policy.

- If the district does not have a policy related to gift acceptance, a policy should be adopted.
- The OPI encourages school districts to leave the funds in the endowment fund (Fund 45, 81, or 85) and use them for the purposes allowed in law. The School Accounting Manual will be updated with the allowances in law.
- However, if a district wants to transfer the funds, in compliance with ARM 10.10.320 (10), the district is required to notify the OPI of all transfers.
- Questions about HB 576 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





HB 601 - TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN OPI FOR SCHOOL SAFETY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Bill Overview: The OPI made a promise to Montana students to increase school safety training. HB 601 allows school districts to apply for school safety professional development grants that give teachers, administrators, and other school district personnel skills to combat mental and physical threats to students.

• The OPI has \$100,000 each fiscal year for distribution.

- Coding related to this program will have a designated program code and revenue code (will be posted on school finance accounting page).
- Keep an eye out for the application process for the safety grants. Contact Tracy Moseman for more information, <u>TMoseman@mt.gov</u> or 444-3000.





HB 619 - REVISE STUDENT DATA PRIVACY LAWS

Bill Overview: HB 619 amends section 20-7-104, MCA, to allow the OPI to share student-level information to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Department of Labor for the purpose of research.

- The research must be directed at ensuring that the Montana K-12 education system meets the expectations of the Montana university system and the workforce needs of the state.
- The State Superintendent of Public Instruction will determine the necessity of research requests from OCHE and DLI and will enter into an agreement to share the student information.
- The bill also places requirements on the Memorandum of Understanding between the OPI and said agency.
- These requirements state that the MOU must expire after 18 months and that all shared data must be deleted upon completion of the research project.

School To Do List:

• If districts are concerned about what data will be shared, contact John Perkins, <u>John.Perkins@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-5658.





HB 631 - CREATE PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO HELP WORKERS IN TARGETED INDUSTRIES

<u>Bill Overview</u>: HB 631 creates a pilot program for public-private partnerships to increase skill training in targeted industries and job-readiness assistance for target populations and provides rulemaking authority to the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI).

- The objective of the program is for the DLI to coordinate with the Department of Commerce, the OPI, the Board of Public Education, the Board of Regents, and other state agencies to promote the creation of strategic industry partnerships across the state, advance the skills of the state's workforce, determine opportunities for resource sharing, and increase sustainable employment for residents of the state.
- The strategic partnerships will identify common workforce needs for high demand occupations within a target industry and a target population; plan, develop and implement strategies to meet common workforce needs, address shortages determined for a specific region, and encourage entrepreneurship for high-demand occupations, and apply to the DLI for grants to address strategic industry partnership objectives.
- These strategic partnerships must include a representative of a local government; a high school district, a community college
 or a unit of the Montana university system; and one or more target industries. Other entities may participate as well.
- The bill also establishes the Montana Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) program under which the strategic partnerships may submit grant proposals to the DLI and establishes the parameters to be used by the DLI for awarding grants.
- The bill creates a state special revenue account to receive contributions from state, federal or private sources and transfers \$45,000 from the state general fund to initialize the account. As a pilot program, the statute will terminate at the end of biennium 2021 and the DLI will provide to the governor and the legislative council a report describing the results of the program.



School To Do List:

If a district wishes to participate in this partnership, contact Jule Walker, Jule.Walker@mt.gov or 406-444-7325.

<u>HB 636 – REVISE LAWS RELATED TO PROTESTED</u> <u>TAXES</u>

Bill Overview: HB 636 amends Title 15 related to payment of protested taxes or fees under protest and appeals filed after December 31st, 2019.

- If the final assessed value is less than 75% of the original assessment value, the local governing body can demand the Department of Revenue reimburse the local government the tax equivalent of the difference between 75% of the original assessed value and the final assessed value.
- If a school district waives the right to an industrial protested property tax, the amount required to be refunded by DOR is forfeited to the taxpayer.

- Remember this relates to centrally assessed and industrial property taxes only. This is not in relation to private property taxpayers or business property taxes.
- If a district must withdraw centrally assessed or industrial property taxes and the final assessed value is less than 75% of the original value, the local government can request DOR pay the difference.
- If a district is able to figure what property taxes are for 75% of the original value (this is not 75% of the paid property taxes), the district could withdraw that amount without any forced repayment.
- Questions about HB 636 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





<u>HB 638 – INCREASING K-12 SPECIAL ED</u> <u>ALLOWABLE COST PAYMENT</u>

Bill Overview: HB 638 appropriates \$393,957 for FY 2020 and \$1,193,409 for FY 2021 over the base for state special education payments to schools.

- An additional \$272,853 appropriation is provided for increases to Guarantee Tax Base aid related to the increases in the special education allowable cost payment.
- The increase to appropriations in FY 2021 is to be considered part of the ongoing base for the next legislative session.

- No action necessary, the revised preliminary budget data sheets include the new rates.
- Questions about HB 638 can be directed to Kathleen Wanner, <u>KWanner@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-9852.



<u>HB 643 – EXTEND STATE LANDS REIMBURSEMENT</u> <u>BLOCK GRANT FOR SCHOOLS</u>

Bill Overview: HB 643 amends section 20-9-640, MCA, extending the state lands reimbursement block grant for schools through the end of FY 2021 and provides an annual appropriation of \$100,000 for the 2021 biennium.

- If you are an effected district, the district must budget this in the general fund and the payment will be received in the December and May months.
- Questions about HB 643 can be directed to Kathleen Wanner, <u>KWanner@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-9852.





<u>HB 652 – REVISE THE LONG RANGE BUILDING</u> <u>BONDING PROGRAM</u>

<u>Bill Overview</u>: HB 652 amends Title 17 with the addition of several statutes providing for infrastructure funding in the form of general obligation bonds, general fund appropriations, and state special revenues from bonds.

- This bill specifically appropriates \$10.75 million to the Department of Commerce for local governments for school district infrastructure projects related to safety or security issues, major repairs or deferred maintenance, and major improvements or enhancements.
- Each project must be completed by September 30th, 2020, and cannot exceed \$750,000 and \$1.5 million per county.

- The Department of Commerce has released the applications for the grants. The application period is June 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019.
- The application is found <u>HERE</u> or on the commerce website at <u>https://comdev.mt.gov/</u>.
- Coding related to this program will have a designated program code and revenue code (will be posted on school finance accounting page).
- Questions about HB 652 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





<u>HB 657 – STUDY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING</u> FORMULA AND CTE FUNDING

Bill Overview: HB 657 provides for a legislative study of education-related topics to be conducted by a bipartisan subcommittee of the legislative finance committee.

- The topics include K-12 special education funding, the community college funding formula, and postsecondary career and technical education credit values.
- The results of the study must be presented to the legislative finance committee prior to September 1, 2020.
- The bill appropriates \$5,000 to the legislative fiscal division for purposes of conducting the study.

- If your school district wishes to participate in the study, the district can contact the Education Legislative Interim Committee through this website: <u>https://leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/2019edic/</u>.
- Questions about HB 657 can be directed to John Perkins, <u>John.Perkins@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-5658.



<u>HB 662 – IMPLEMENT PROVISIONS OF HB2,</u> <u>SECTION E - EDUCATION</u>

Bill Overview: HB 662 is a companion bill to HB 2. A companion bill is a bill that includes any statute changes required for the appropriations in HB 2 to be valid.

- HB 662 amends section 20-7-305, MCA, the statute that establishes the eligibility of CTE programs for funding and authorizes the Superintendent to determine the method for allocating the CTE appropriation.
- The amendment clarifies that the CTE appropriation funds both school district CTE programs and statewide Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) under section 20-7-320, MCA.

- No action necessary. This is current practice.
- Questions about HB 662 can be directed to TJ Eyer, <u>TEyer@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-7915.





<u>HB 745 – ENACT A STUDENT ONLINE PERSONAL</u> INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT

Bill Overview: HB 745 creates the Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act which addresses the issue of third party education software providers who collect student information and then sell the data to marketers.

- The bill prohibits an operator from engaging in targeted advertising, using information to amass a profile about a pupil, sell a pupil's information, or disclose protected information.
- An operator who violates these restrictions could be found guilty of a misdemeanor and be fined up to \$500.
- The bill also requires a school district that enters into a contract with a third party to provide a K-12 application to student data must ensure the contract contains a statement that pupil data continues to be the property of the school district.

Additional provisions include:

- Pupils retain possession of and control their own pupil-generated content
- Prohibition against the third party using any pupil information for any purpose not specified in the contract
- Procedures by which a parent, legal guardian or pupil may review pupil information and correct errors
- The actions the third party will take to ensure security and confidentiality of pupil records
- Procedure for notification in the event of an unauthorized disclosure
- Certification that pupil records will not be retained upon completion of the contract
- How the third party and the school district will jointly ensure compliance with FERPA
- Prohibition against the third party using personally identifiable information in pupil records to engage in targeted advertising The bill does give an exception for contracts in place before the effective date of this act.

School To Do List:

• The district needs to ensure compliance with the protection of student data when contracting with third party providers.

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Questions about HB 745 can be directed to Michael Sweeney, <u>MSweeney@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4411.

<u>HJ 3 – INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTION ON</u> ACCESSIBILITY FOR DISABLED ELECTORS

Bill Overview: HJ 3 is an interim study bill designed to examine state and federal laws related to electors with disabilities, regarding accessible voting machines and technology, improving accessibility for electors with disabilities, and conflicts between state and federal laws.

- With the participation of stakeholders and the public, the goal of the bill is to identify and analyze relevant policy and logistical issues and make recommendations on changes to state laws.
- The study must be concluded prior to September 15, 2020.

School To Do List:

• Questions about HJ 3 can be directed to John Perkins, <u>John.Perkins@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-5658.





<u>HJ 10 – STUDY RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS</u> <u>AMERICAN INDIAN VOTING</u>

Bill Overview: HJ 10 is an interim study bill to identify and address barriers to voting by Montana Native Americans.

- The study will examine deadlines and procedures related to physical address and identification, analyze options for addressing barriers while ensuring election security, review mail ballot requirements and options, and consider any other matters related to voting by Montana Native Americans.
- The State-Tribal Relations Committee will request participation from election administrators, representatives from each of the tribal governments, and other interested parties, and provide a final report to the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee.
- The study must be concluded prior to September 15, 2020.

School To Do List:

• Questions about HJ 10 can be directed to John Perkins, <u>John.Perkins@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-5658.





HJ 39 – REQUESTING LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON COMBINING ADMIN OF TRS & MPERA

Bill Overview: HJ 39 is a joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives requesting that the Legislative audit committee prioritize a performance audit of administrative operations and costs of TRS and MPERA, to evaluate whether combining the two administrative entities into one would save money or result in other operational efficiencies.

School To Do List:

• Questions about HJ 39 can be directed to John Perkins, <u>John.Perkins@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-5658.





<u>SB 2 – ALLOW GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING</u> STANDARDS TO INCLUDE DOA FRAMEWORK

Bill Overview: SB 2 amends sections 2-7-504, MCA, and 7-6-609, MCA, to allow an additional financial framework for small government entities.

- The Department of Administration (DOA) was given legislative authority to adopt administrative rules to govern small government financial reporting.
- While this bill has no direct effect on school district financial reporting, the Office of Public Instruction can adopt similar standards.

- The OPI will monitor the changes implemented by DOA and can consider adopting similar standards. Until the DOA has time to see the process through to the end, the OPI is not planning on changing the auditing process for school districts.
- Questions about SB 2 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





<u>SB 9 – REVISE SCHOOL FUNDING RELATED TO</u> <u>OVERESTIMATED ANB INCREASES</u>

Bill Overview: SB 9 amends sections 20-9-141, 20-9-308, 20-7-457, and 20-9-314, MCA, revising laws related to overpayments of school district property taxes, ensuring that overpayments of school district general fund property taxes resulting from anticipated unusual enrollment increases that are not realized are fully returned to local taxpayers.

• The bill also modifies statute so that general fund voting limits in the subsequent year are recalculated to reflect a modified prior year budget amount that would have been permissible as related to actual materialized ANB.

- Districts with non-materialized ANB will see a balance sheet transaction to set aside the local levied portion associated with the non-materialized ANB and a balancing transaction with estimated general fund amounts in the BASE and Over BASE portion of the budget.
- In addition, the adjusted PY adopted budget will be used in the maximum budget calculation for the ensuing year. This will
 only affect school districts who use the PY adopted budget plus add ons as the maximum budget amount.
- Questions about SB 9 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





<u>SB 10 – REVISE SCHOOL FUNDING RELATED TO</u> <u>MAJOR MAINTENANCE AID</u>

<u>Bill Overview</u>: SB 10 amends section 20-9-525, MCA, to correct errors related to the calculation of school major maintenance aid and the natural resource development K-12 school facilities payment.

 This changes the calculation of the local dollar of effort to the Department of Revenue (DOR) certified taxable values which is consistent with all other calculations.

- School districts will not see a change as this only affected the local dollar of effort calculation by cents.
- Questions about SB 10 can be directed to Paul Taylor, <u>PTaylor2@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-1257.



<u>SB 11 – CLARIFY AGE REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO</u> <u>THE DEFINITION OF PUPIL</u>

Bill Overview: SB 11 amends sections 20-1-101, 20-5-101, and 20-7-411, MCA, to update laws related to pupil minimum age, clarifying that a 5-year-old child enrolled in a public school is considered a pupil.

- There is no change. This is clean up language in conflicting statutes.
- Questions about SB 11 can be directed to Paul Taylor, <u>PTaylor2@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-1257.



<u>SB 12 – REVISE SCHOOL FUNDING RELATED TO OIL</u> <u>AND GAS PRODUCTION TAXES</u>

Bill Overview: SB 12 repeals outdated statutes related to oil and gas accounts.

- The statutes include sections 20-9-517, 20-9-518, and 20-9-520, MCA.
- The statutes are no longer valid as the oil and gas accounts were restructured in the 2017 Legislative Session by HB 647 which diverted the revenue to the state guarantee account.
- Repealing these statutes removes outdated language.

- Some districts will receive a payment for the residual cash left in this account. The total dispersed by Department of Revenue is \$17,074.
- Questions about SB 12 can be directed to Paul Taylor, <u>PTaylor2@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-1257.





<u>SB 16 – REVISE SCHOOL FUNDING RELATED TO</u> <u>SPECIAL EDUCATION JOINT BOARDS</u>

Bill Overview: SB 16 amends sections 20-3-361, 20-3-362, 20-7-457, and 20-9-321, MCA, to clarify laws related to special education cooperatives and joint boards, removing language related to special education funding for joint boards. • Special education funding is paid on behalf of each school district and is not related to joint boards.

School To Do List:

Should have no effect as there are no joint boards.

•Questions about SB 16 can be directed to Frank Podobnik, <u>FPodobnik@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4428.





<u>SB 35 – GENERALLY REVISE SCHOOL SAFETY LAWS</u>

Bill Overview: SB 35 amends sections 41-5-215 and 52-2-211, MCA, to improve county interdisciplinary teams in the state.

- The bill strikes sections 3 and 4 in 41-5-215, MCA, to clarify how schools are notified about students who have formal youth court records, preliminary inquiries, petitions, motions, other filed pleadings, court findings, verdicts, and orders and decrees.
- The second part of the bill in section 52-2-211, MCA adds the requirement that county superintendents shall provide to the OPI a current copy of the written agreement for the county interdisciplinary information and school safety team.
- The OPI is then required to report any county that has not provided a written agreement to the education interim committee no later than September 15 of a given year.

- County superintendents are <u>required</u> to send copies of all interdisciplinary information to the OPI for reporting purposes.
- The OPI will create a collection process through the TEAMS collection for school year 2020 2021 and notify county superintendents of the new reporting requirements.
- Questions about SB 35 can be directed to Michael Sweeney, <u>MSweeney@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4411.





<u>SB 40 – REQUIRE OPI TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN</u> <u>ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY PHOTOGRAPH</u> <u>REPOSITORY</u>

Bill Overview: SB 40 adds a new section to Title 20, chapter 7, part 13, MCA, and directs the OPI to create and maintain an electronic directory photograph repository of individual students for the purposes of providing photographs to law enforcement for any student who has been identified as a missing child.

- School districts must send an annual notice to the parent or guardian of each student with information on the new photograph repository, a form to allow the parent or guardian to have the student's photograph included, information about the use of the photograph if the student is identified as a missing child, and information about how to remove the photograph.
- This statute also directs the OPI to include the directory photograph on the monthly missing child list the OPI provides to districts.
- Finally, the bill requires the OPI to delete any photograph that is two years old or older.

- School districts must send a notice to parents or guardians to opt in to the program.
- School districts must facilitate the collection photographs and consent status of for the OPI to provide the information to the missing child repository.
- Questions about SB 40 can be directed to Michael Sweeney, <u>MSweeney@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4411.



<u>SB 58 – REVISE THE MONTANA BANK ACT</u>

Bill Overview: SB 58 amends section 20-3-324, MCA to exclude a reference to § 32-1-115, MCA, which defines a student financial institution. Instead, a school or education service is added to § 32-1-115, MCA; therefore, the reference to § 32-1-115, MCA in § 20-3-324, MCA is no longer necessary.

- Should have no effect on school districts as this is clean up language.
- Questions about SB 58 can be directed to Kathleen Wanner, <u>KWanner@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-9852.



<u>SB 92 – GENERALLY REVISE LAWS RELATED TO</u> <u>SCHOOL SAFETY</u>

- **Bill Overview:** SB 92 amends sections 20-9-236, 20-9-502, and 20-9-525, MCA and clarifies permissible expenditures for school and student safety and security within the school safety sub-fund of the building reserve fund to include staffing for or services provided by architects, engineers, school resource officers, counselors, and other staff or consultants assisting the district with improvements to school and student safety and security to include, programs to support school and student safety and security, including but not limited to active shooter training, threat assessments, and restorative justice.
- SB 92 authorizes the trustees of a school district to seek voter approval of a levy for school and student safety and security within the district's school safety sub-fund of the building reserve fund.
- The bill also expands permissible expenditures of state school major maintenance aid and major maintenance levies to include school and student safety and security within the district's permissively levied sub-fund of the building reserve fund.

- School districts will be allowed to have a perpetual voted safety levy with voter approval.
- School personnel should be aware of the allowance of student safety and security expenditures in the permissive subfund.
- When districts enter their levies into the MAEFAIRS system, the system will require the user to select a subfund for the levy type.
- Questions about SB 92 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





<u>SB 130 – REVISE SCHOOL ELECTION LAW</u>

Bill Overview: SB 130 extends the time to canvass issue certificates of election and hold the school board's annual organizational meeting from 15 to 25 days.

- School districts will have up to 25 days to canvass and issue certificates for elections.
- Questions about SB 130 can be directed to Nicole Thuotte, <u>NThuotte@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4524.



<u>SB 132 – CREATING A STUDENT SAFETY</u> <u>ACCOUNTABILITY ACT</u>

Bill Overview: SB 132 amends sections 45-5-501 and 45-5-502, MCA, to provide protections for students in school, whether public or private.

- The law states that students cannot consent to a sexual relationship with a teacher due to the authority that the teacher holds over the student. The bill does provide for an exception if the two individuals are married.
- The bill goes further to prohibit employers of those convicted of violations in 45-5-502, 45-5-503, 45-5-504, 45-5-507, 45-5-508, 45-5-601, 45-5-602, 45-5-603, 45-5-625, 45-5-702, 45-5-704, and 45-5-705 from assisting in obtaining employment for their offending employee.
- It also provides for a penalty of a fine up to \$1,000 and up to one-year imprisonment, for individuals who assist offenders in
 obtaining employment.

School To Do List:

• Questions about SB 132 can be directed to John Perkins, <u>John.Perkins@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-5658.





<u>SB 139 – REVISE RETIREE RETURN TO WORK</u> PROVISIONS IN TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Bill Overview: SB 139 revises return to work provisions.

This bill:

- Lowers the total years of creditable service from 30 years to 27 years in order for retirees to be eligible for this program;
- Adds a restriction that this option is only available to schools classified as second class or third class using the district classification that determines the number of trustees in the district;
- Adds a new requirement for OPI to verify that the Employer advertised the position and it requires TRS to report to both the interim SAVA Committee and the interim Education Committee on utilization of this statute;
- Removes "superintendent" from the definition of administrators that are eligible to work under section 19-20-732, MCA; and
- Allows retirees to work in limited circumstances with no limit on what they can earn without any adjustment to their monthly
 retirement benefit.

- If the school district classifies as a second or third class district, school districts must communicate with OPI to verify advertised positions if they are interested in using the return to work provision allowed under this bill.
- Review the TRS legislative update information located on their webpage at <u>https://trs.mt.gov/miscellaneous/PdfFiles/Information/legislation/2019LegUpdate.pdf</u>.
- Additional questions about SB 139 should be directed to the Teacher Retirement System.



<u>SB 140 – ESTABLISH THE MONTANA DYSLEXIA</u> <u>SCREENING AND INTERVENTION ACT</u>

Bill Overview: SB 140 establishes the Montana Dyslexia Screening and Intervention Act. SB 140 requires school districts to identify children with disabilities and evaluate for special education as early as possible.

- In line with this requirement, the bill requires school districts to utilize a screening instrument aimed at identifying students at risk of not meeting grade-level reading benchmarks. The screening instrument must be
 - administered to a child in the first year that the child is admitted to a school up to grade 2 and a child who has not been
 previously screened who fails to meet grade-level reading benchmarks, and
 - administered by an individual trained to identify signs of dyslexia.
- If the screening tool suggests that a child has dyslexia, the school district must take steps to identify the specific needs of the child and implement best practice interventions to address those needs.
- The OPI is required to raise statewide awareness of dyslexia and provide guidance to school districts related to the early
 identification of dyslexia including best practices for reliable screening methods, best practice interventions to support
 students with dyslexia as early as possible, and best practices for collaborating with and supporting parents of students with
 dyslexia.
- The OPI and the BPE must report to the interim education committee on progress made in addressing dyslexia no later than September 15, 2020.
- Finally, the act urges all entities in Montana with authority or a role to play in teacher preparation and professional development to ensure that teachers and other school personnel are well prepared to identify and serve students with dyslexia.

School To Do List:

The OPI is required to provide guidance to schools about dyslexia. Stay tuned for information to come at a later date.
 Questions about SB 140 can be directed to Frank Podobnik, <u>FPodobnik@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4428.

<u>SB 148 – ALLOW LATE REGISTRANT ABSENTEE</u> <u>BALLOTS TO BE DROPPED OFF AT POLLING</u> <u>LOCATIONS</u>

Bill Overview: SB 148 gives an elector who late registers the option of returning the ballot to the county election administrator, or school clerk if the election is administered by the school clerk, or to any polling location within the county or district where the elector is registered, on election day.

- For school elections administered by the school clerk late registrants can return ballots to the polling location rather than to the county election administrator or the school clerk.
- Questions about SB 148 can be directed to Nicole Thuotte, <u>NThuotte@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4524.





<u>SB 162 – GENERALLY REVISE ELECTION LAWS</u>

Bill Overview: SB 162 establishes an early count process that begins up to 3 business days before election day as follows:

- In counties with 8,000 or more registered electors or 5,000 or more absentee electors as of the close of regular registration, election officials may separate voted ballots from the secrecy envelope in preparation for tabulation. In counties with fewer than 8,000 registered electors or less than 5,000 absentee electors, the process begins no sooner than 1 business day before election day.
- This process can never occur on a Saturday or Sunday and must be open to the public.
- When using a vote-counting machine, tabulation may begin up to 1 day before election day. Tabulation done by manual count must be conducted on election day. Access to the electronic system containing early tabulation results is limited to the election administrator and the election administrator's designee.
- SB 162 also eliminates the requirement to sequester both the judges and observers of the early count process. Both judges and observers must take an oath affirming that they will not release election results until after the close of polls on election day.
- A person who knowingly releases early election results may be subject to a prison term not to exceed 2 years, fined between \$100,000 and \$500,000, or both.

- Schools should contact their county election administrator to determine eligibility for early preparation.
- Count observers no longer require sequestration, but must be administered the oath.
- Questions about SB 162 can be directed to Nicole Thuotte, <u>NThuotte@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4524.





<u>SB 197 – GENERALLY REVISE EDUCATION LAWS</u> <u>RELATED TO MONTANA YOUTH CHALLENGE</u> <u>ACADEMY</u>

Bill Overview: SB 197 amends section 10-1-1402, MCA, to add a provision that allows students participating in the Montana Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) to earn a high school diploma. The bill provides that the ability to receive a diploma is based on the student's proficiency and is at the discretion of the resident district trustees.

- No action needed, FYI only.
- Questions about SB 197 can be directed to John Perkins, <u>John.Perkins@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-5658.





<u>SB 291 – REVISE LAWS ON VOTING SYSTEMS AND</u> <u>BALLOT FORM</u>

Bill Overview: SB 291 directs county election administrators to ensure that at least one voter interface device is available at every polling location.

- The screen must be blocked from the view of other electors in the polling location. Non-disabled electors must also be encouraged to cast their ballot using the device.
- Any ballots cast using the device must be transcribed in secret using a standard ballot form, by not less than three election
 officials.
- A voter interface device is defined as a voting system accessible to electors with disabilities that is able to communicate voting instructions and ballot information to a voter, allows the voter to select and vote for candidates and issues including the ability to verify and change selections, and produces a paper ballot that electors may use to confirm the accuracy of their vote.
- Before a voter interface device may be used, the device must meet the electronic security standards adopted by the Secretary of State, provide accessible technology for electors with hearing, vision, speech or ambulatory impairments and have been made available for demonstration in at least one public event held by the Secretary of State.

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• Disabled electors must be involved in making the determination that a device meets accessibility standards.

- Contact the county election administrators prior to election to schedule use of an approved voter interface device.
- Questions about SB 291 can be directed to Nicole Thuotte, <u>NThuotte@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-4524.



<u>SB 292 – REVISE LAWS RELATED TO FINANCIAL</u> <u>ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS</u>

Bill Overview: SB 292 amends section 20-9-235, MCA, allowing the Office of Public Instruction to remit transportation and debt service payments directly to school districts with investment accounts separate from the county.

- If a district participates in banking separate from the county and the district would like to have transportation and debt service payments sent to that separate account, the agreement with the county must be updated to reflect the change and sent to the OPI. After that information is received, the OPI will redirect the payment to the district account on file.
- Questions about SB 292 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





<u>SB 302 – GENERALLY REVISE LAWS RELATED TO</u> <u>LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETING AND</u> <u>ACCOUNTING</u>

Bill Overview: SB 302 amends Title 2, Chapter 7, requiring the Department of Justice (DOJ) to monitor and investigate non-compliance of local government entities regarding timely submission of financial reports and audits to the state. If local governments fail to report either financial audits or adopt budgets within two years of the deadline, the DOJ can file a cause of action against the local government entity.

- No action needed, FYI only.
- Questions about SB 302 can be directed to Kara Flath, <u>Kara.Flath@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3249.





<u>SB 321 – REVISE LAWS PERTAINING TO TARGETED</u> <u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS</u>

Bill Overview: SB 321 amends sections 7-15-4286, 7-15-4291, 20-9-104, and 20-9-141, MCA and provides that the tax increment that is not utilized to pay costs or bonds by a targeted economic district that has issued bonds must be remitted to taxing jurisdictions in the same manner as it would have been distributed without tax increment financing.

School To Do List:

• If the school district has a TIF, the district may be affected minimally.

•Questions about SB 321 can be directed to Paul Taylor, <u>PTaylor2@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-1257.



<u>SB 328 – AUTHORIZE LOCAL ABATEMENT OF COAL</u> <u>GROSS PROCEEDS TAX FOR SURFACE MINES</u>

Bill Overview: SB 328 amends sections 15-23-703 and 15-23-715, MCA and authorizes a board of county commissioners to authorize a local abatement of the coal gross proceeds tax from a new or expanding surface coal mine and utilizes the same abatement provisions for surface mining as underground mining.

- This bill would impact coal proceeds statewide if a county authorizes abatement with this change in law. Schools are
 encouraged to discuss with the county treasurer to see if there may be an impact.
- Questions about SB 328 can be directed to Paul Taylor, <u>PTaylor2@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-1257.





FUTURE LOOKING – WHAT IS ON THE HORIZON?

Active Workgroups:

- ESSA Per Pupil Expenditure Reporting workgroup is still active for those who want to participate.
- School Accounting Manual Workgroup beginning in the Fall.

Anticipated Changes in Next Fiscal Year:

- Flex fund need to allow budgeting and levy allowances for transformational learning (HB 351).
- Adult Education fund need to allow budgeting and levy allowances for advanced opportunities (HB 387 and depending on award timelines).
- Districts who were notified to report by school code will be required to report by school code. However, all districts should begin preparations in for reporting by school code.
- Per pupil expenditures will be reported in February 2020 for the FY 2019 data for <u>all</u> school districts.

Other Items:

- There will be a survey relating to the School Finance Division in the next few weeks. Please participate. Your feedback is important.
- Contact OPI staff if you have questions.







QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? THANK YOU!

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