

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 485

2 INTRODUCED BY E. ARNTZEN

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE MONTANA YOUTH  
5 TRANSITIONS PROJECT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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7 WHEREAS, there are approximately 6,700 students with disabilities in Montana high schools who face  
8 challenges as they leave the high school setting and seek to find housing, employment, and postsecondary  
9 education opportunities that will allow them to live independently and strive to achieve self-sufficiency; and10 WHEREAS, the 2009 Legislature provided funding for coordination of transition activities among Montana  
11 families, nonprofit organizations, and governmental agencies; and12 WHEREAS, based on the number of high school-aged students with disabilities, the funds averaged out  
13 to an investment of \$7.46 per student for the transition to adult life; and14 WHEREAS, the funding supported regional efforts focused on transition needs, job-shadowing  
15 opportunities, a statewide conference, and a website that provides information to youth and their families on  
16 issues related to transition from youth to adulthood and independent living.

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

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20 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$50,000 in each year of the  
21 biennium beginning July 1, 2011, from the general fund to the department of public health and human services  
22 to be used for transition coordination activities as follows:

23 (a) coordinating a statewide transitions conference;

24 (b) maintaining the Montana youth transitions website;

25 (c) coordinating a day devoted to mentoring students with disabilities and providing associated  
26 job-shadowing activities;

27 (d) developing and implementing regional transition meetings;

28 (e) establishing a system of coordination and communication with the governor's transition task force;

29 and

30 (f) providing quarterly reports in a format that reflects progress on the purposes of the program and the

1 services provided.

2 (2) The department may enter into a contract for the services provided under this section.

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4 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2011.

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