

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 575

2 INTRODUCED BY T. BURNETT

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE GRANT TRANSPARENCY ACT; PROVIDING
5 DEFINITIONS; AND REQUIRING A SEARCHABLE WEBSITE FOR TRACKING GRANT INFORMATION."

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

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9 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 4] may be cited as the "Grant Transparency
10 Act".

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12 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of [sections 1 through 4] is to establish transparency
13 in the use of taxpayer funds granted to nonstate entities.

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15 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 4], the following definitions
16 apply:

17 (1) "Designated state agency" means:

18 (a) the department of administration;

19 (b) the department of agriculture;

20 (c) the arts council;

21 (d) the office of the state auditor;

22 (e) the board of regents;

23 (f) the department of commerce;

24 (g) the department of corrections;

25 (h) the department of environmental quality;

26 (i) the department of fish, wildlife, and parks;

27 (j) the governor's office;

28 (k) the department of labor and industry;

29 (l) the department of livestock;

30 (m) the department of military affairs;

- 1 (n) the Montana board of crime control;
- 2 (o) the department of natural resources and conservation;
- 3 (p) the commissioner of political practices;
- 4 (q) the office of the state public defender;
- 5 (r) the board of public education;
- 6 (s) the department of public health and human services;
- 7 (t) the office of public instruction;
- 8 (u) the public service commission;
- 9 (v) the department of revenue;
- 10 (w) the school for the deaf and blind;
- 11 (x) the secretary of state;
- 12 (y) the state fund;
- 13 (z) the state library;
- 14 (aa) the department of transportation;
- 15 (bb) the office of the commissioner of higher education; or
- 16 (cc) the department of justice.
- 17 (2) "Grant" means state funds disbursed by a designated state agency as a federal or state grant.
- 18 (3) "Grantee" means a nonstate entity that receives a grant.
- 19 (4) "State funds" means any money appropriated by the state legislature, any money disbursed by a
- 20 designated state agency under spending authority authorized by the state legislature, or any federal money that
- 21 is passed through a designated state agency.
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- 23 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Grant reporting -- searchable website.** (1) Following the close of each
- 24 fiscal year, a designated state agency shall prepare a report that identifies all grants disbursed by the agency in
- 25 the previous fiscal year.
- 26 (2) The report must provide the following information:
- 27 (a) the amount of each grant;
- 28 (b) the date of the grant;
- 29 (c) the entity receiving the grant;
- 30 (d) the duration of the grant; and

1 (e) the purpose of the grant.

2 (3) A designated state agency that prepares a report in accordance with subsection (1) shall submit the
3 report to the office of budget and program planning on or before August 1 of each year.

4 (4) The office of budget and program planning shall prepare a report that compiles and summarizes the
5 reports that the office of budget and program planning receives in accordance with subsection (3).

6 (5) The office of budget and program planning shall submit the report required by subsection (4) to the
7 state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee on or before September 1 of each year. The report
8 must be submitted in an electronic format.

9 (6) The report required by subsection (4) shall be posted to a searchable website so that a user may
10 search for grant information by agency, grantee, topic, and title.

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be codified
13 as an integral part of Title 17, chapter 1, and the provisions of Title 17, chapter 1, apply to [sections 1 through 4].

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