



AN ACT CREATING THE GRANT TRANSPARENCY ACT; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AND REQUIRING A SEARCHABLE WEBSITE FOR TRACKING GRANT INFORMATION.

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

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

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of [sections 1 through 4] is to establish transparency in the use of taxpayer funds distributed as grants.

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

- (1) "Designated state agency" means:
- (a) the department of administration;
 - (b) the department of agriculture;
 - (c) the arts council;
 - (d) the office of the state auditor;
 - (e) the board of regents;
 - (f) the department of commerce;
 - (g) the department of corrections;
 - (h) the department of environmental quality;
 - (i) the department of fish, wildlife, and parks;
 - (j) the governor's office;
 - (k) the department of labor and industry;
 - (l) the department of livestock;
 - (m) the department of military affairs;
 - (n) the Montana board of crime control;

- (o) the department of natural resources and conservation;
- (p) the commissioner of political practices;
- (q) the office of the state public defender;
- (r) the board of public education;
- (s) the department of public health and human services;
- (t) the office of public instruction;
- (u) the public service commission;
- (v) the department of revenue;
- (w) the school for the deaf and blind;
- (x) the secretary of state;
- (y) the state fund;
- (z) the state library;
- (aa) the department of transportation;
- (bb) the office of the commissioner of higher education; or
- (cc) the department of justice.

(2) "Grant" means state funds disbursed by a designated state agency as a federal or state grant.

(3) "Grantee" means any state or nonstate entity that receives a grant.

(4) "State funds" means any money appropriated by the state legislature, any money disbursed by a designated state agency under spending authority authorized by the state legislature, or any federal money that is passed through a designated state agency.

Section 4. Grant reporting -- searchable website. (1) Following the close of each fiscal year, a designated state agency shall prepare a report that identifies all grants disbursed by the agency in the previous fiscal year.

(2) The report must provide the following information:

- (a) the amount of each grant;
- (b) the date of the grant;
- (c) the entity receiving the grant;
- (d) the duration of the grant; and

(e) the purpose of the grant.

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

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

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

(6) The department of administration shall post the report required by subsection (4) to a searchable website so that a user may search for grant information by agency, grantee, topic, and title.

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

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 0575, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2015.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2015.

HOUSE BILL NO. 575
INTRODUCED BY T. BURNETT

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