

SENATE BILL NO. 132

INTRODUCED BY B. BEARD, E. BUTTREY, B. MOLNAR, A. OLSEN, F. MANDEVILLE, W. MCKAMEY, D.
LOGE, J. FULLER, R. KNUDSEN, S. KERNS, J. SCHILLINGER, J. BERGSTROM, Z. WIRTH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN MONTANA;
REVISING THE REQUIREMENTS AND PAYMENTS UNDER THE ADVANCING AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION IN MONTANA PROGRAM; ELIMINATING A STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT;
CREATING A PAYMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM FOR SMALL SCHOOLS WITHOUT APPROVED
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION THROUGH
ALTERNATIVE MEANS; REMOVING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTION 20-7-334, MCA;
AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 20-7-334, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-7-334. Advancing agricultural education in Montana program account. (1) There is an
advancing agricultural education in Montana program ~~account in the state special revenue fund provided for in~~
~~17-2-102~~ ADMINISTERED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

(2) Money ~~in the account and money~~ appropriated by the legislature for the purpose of this section
must be used by the office of public instruction for addressing the stability of and making improvements to
Montana's agricultural education programs. ~~The office of public instruction shall adopt rules to implement the~~
~~national quality program standards. If the funding for the payments under this section in a fiscal year is less~~
than the total amount for which Montana school districts qualify, the superintendent of public instruction shall
prorate the payments accordingly.

(3) (a) Each agricultural education program in the state that ~~completes the national quality program~~
~~standard evaluation as adopted by rule and~~ submits a plan of improvement to the office of public instruction's
agricultural education specialist ~~may~~ must IS ELIGIBLE TO receive a payment of UP TO \$1,000 and an additional
PAYMENT OF UP TO \$1,000 prorated per full-time equivalent teacher endorsed in agricultural education who

1 teaches approved agricultural education courses through the local agricultural education program. A plan of
 2 improvement under this subsection (3)(a) ~~may~~MUST be based on a national quality program standard
 3 evaluation or a comprehensive local needs assessment under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical
 4 Education Improvement Act of 2006, as amended, as determined by the agricultural education specialist.

5 (b) Each agricultural education program in the state that submits to the office of public instruction a
 6 detailed budget to increase the quality of its agricultural education program based on the plan of improvement
 7 may ~~must~~ IS ELIGIBLE TO receive a payment of up to UP TO \$1,000 prorated per full-time equivalent teacher
 8 endorsed in agricultural education who teaches approved agricultural education courses through the local
 9 agricultural education program.

10 (c) A high school in a second- or third-class district without an approved agricultural education
 11 program that provides agricultural education opportunities through online courses or work-based learning
 12 partnerships ~~must~~ IS ELIGIBLE TO receive a payment of UP TO \$50 for each agricultural education credit awarded
 13 to a high school student through an online course or work-based learning partnership. The total amount
 14 awarded to a high school in a district under this subsection (3)(c) may not exceed \$1,000 in a school fiscal year.

15 ~~(d)~~(d) Each school that adds agricultural education to its curriculum and recruits and retains an
 16 endorsed agricultural education teacher ~~must~~ IS ELIGIBLE TO receive a payment of up to \$7,500. A school with
 17 an existing agricultural education program is eligible for an additional payment of up to \$7,500 each time the
 18 school expands the program's teaching staff by adding a full-time equivalent teacher endorsed in agricultural
 19 education.

20 ~~(d)~~(e) Program administrators in Bozeman and Helena ~~must~~ ARE ELIGIBLE TO receive a total of UP TO
 21 \$20,000 annually for the costs of providing a minimum of one onsite visit each year to each participating
 22 school."
 23

24 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

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