HOUSE BILL 147

Introduced by Coehn

1/11 Introduced
1/11 Referred to Taxation
1/11
1/11
1/16
1/18
1/18
3/27
4/02
First Reading
Fiscal Note Requested
Fiscal Note Received
Hearing
Fiscal Note Printed
Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended
2nd Reading Do Pass Motion Failed


A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT IMPOSING A TAX ON CERTAIN TRANSFERS OF REAL PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROCEEDS; PROVIDING PENALTIES; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-7-301, 15-7-302, 15-7-303, 15-7-305, 15-7-306, 15-7-307, AND 15-7-310, MCA; REPEALING SECTION 15-7-311, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED By the legislature of the state of montana:
Section 1. Section 15-7-301, MCA, is amended to read:
-15-7-301. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Realty Transfer Tax Act"."

Section 2. Section 15-7-302, MCA, is amended to read:
n15-7-302. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to:
(1) impose a tax on the transfer of real property and
to provide for the distribution of the proceeds from the tax to the local jurisdiction where the property is located; and
(2) obtain sales price data necessary to the determination of statewide levels and uniformity of real estate assessments by the most efficient, economical, and reliable method."

Section 3. Section 15-7-303, MCA, is amended to read:
"15-7-303. Definitions. As used in this part, the

## following definitions apply:

(1) "Partial interest" means a percentage interest in property when less than $100 \%$.
(2) "Person" means and includes an individual, corporation, partnership, or other business organization, trust, fiduciary, or agent or any other party presenting a document for recordation.
(3) "Real estate" inetudes and "real property" include:
(a) land;
(b) growing timber;
(c) buildings, structures, fixtures, fences, and improvements affixed to land.
(4) "Transfer" means an act of the parties or of the law by which the title to real property is conveyed from one person to another.
(5) "Value" means:
(a) in the case of a transfer of interest in real property, other than a gift or a transfer with nominal consideration or without stated consideration, the amount of the full actual consideration therefor paid or to be paid, including the amount of any lien or liens thereon on the real property; or
(b) in the case of a gift or a transfer with nominal considegation or without stated consideration, the estimated price the property would bring in an open market and under
-2- INTRODUCED BILL AB 147
the current prevailing market conditions in a sale between a willing seller and a willing buyer, both conversant with the property and prevailing current market conditions."

Section 4. Section $15-7-305, \mathrm{MCA}$, is amended to read:
"15-7-305. Certificate of county clerk and recorder. (1) The county clerk and recorder shall cause to be executed by the parties to the transaction or their agents or representatives a certificate declaring the consideration paid or to be paid for the real estate transferred.
(2) No An instrument or deed evidencing a transfer of real estate may not be accepted for recordation until the certificate has been received by the county clerk and recorder and the tax imposed by [section 8] has been paid. The validity or effectiveness of an instrument or deed as between the parties to it shati is not be affected by the failure to comply with the provisions in this part.
(3) The form of the certificate skitt must be prescribed by the department of revenue, and the department shall provide an adequate supply of sueh forms to each county clerk and recorder in the state.
(4) The clerk and recorder shall prepare a like certificate for each contract for deed filed for recording.
(5) The clerk and recorder shall transmit one copy of each executed certificate to the department and one copy to the county assessor."

Section 5. Section 15-7-306, MCA, is amended to read:
"15-7-306. Rules. The department of revenue may prescribe such rules as are reasonably necessary to facilitate and expedite the provisions and administration of this part, including the imposition, collection, and administration of the tax imposed in [section 8]."

Section 6. Section 15-7-307, MCA, is amended to read:
"15-7-307. Certificate -- exceptions. The certificate and tax imposed by this part shazt do not apply to:
(1) an instrument recorded prior to July 1, $\mathbf{1 9 7 5}$ 1991;
(2) the-sate-of-agricutturat-tand-when-the-tand-is-used for-agricutturat-purposes a transfer solely to provide or release security for a debt or obligation;
(3) the sale of timberland when the land is used for producing timber;
(4) the United States of America, this state, or any instrumentality, agency, or subdivision thereof;
(5) an instrument which that (without added consideration) confirms, corrects, modifies, or supplements a previously recorded instrument:
(6) a transfer pursuant to a court decree of partition;
(7) a transfer pursuant to mergers, consolidations, or reorganizations of corporations, partnerships, or other business entities;
(8) a transfer by a subsidiary corporation to its

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parent corporation without actual consideration or in sole
consideration of the cancellation or surrender of subsidiary stock；
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## †9t－－a－transfer－of－deedents－estates：

## f升 $\theta+$－a－transfer－of－a－gift；

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（¥まt（9）a transfer between husband and wife or parent and child with only nominal actual consideration therefor for the transfer；
\(\nmid \pm 2+(10)\) an instrument the effect of which is to transfer the property to the same party or parties；
f¥ヨ广（11）a sale for delinquent taxes or assessments， sheriff sale，bankruptcy action，or mortgage foreclosure；
fi4t－a－－transfer－－made－－in－－－contempiation－－－of－－－death． （Subsection（3）terminates January 1，1991－－sec．10，Ch． 681．L．1985．）＂
Section 7．Section 15－7－310，MCA，is amended to read：
＂15－7－310．Penalty．（I）A Except as otherwise provided in this section，a person convicted of violating any provision of this part shall be fined an amount not to exceed \(\$ 500\) or be imprisoned in the county jail for any a term not to exceed 6 months，or both．
（2）A clerk and recorder convicted of recording a deed or instrument evidencing a transfer subject to tax under ［section 8］without ensuring that the proper amount of tax has been paid shall be fined \(\$ 50\) for each offense．
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（3）A person convicted of falsifying the value of transferred real estate on the certificate required under 15－7－305 shall be fined an amount not to exceed $\$ 1,000$ or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed I year，or both，for each offense．＂

NEW SECTION．Section 8．Imposition of tax．A tax is imposed at the rate of $\$ 1$ for each $\$ 1,000$ of value or fraction thereof declared in the certificate required under 15－7－305 upon the transfer of title to real property．

NEW SECTION．Section 9．Collection of tax．Before a deed or instrument evidencing a transfer of title subject to the tax imposed in［section 8］may be recorded，the treasurer of the county where the property or any portion of the property is located shall calculate and collect the amount of tax due．

NEW SECTION．Section 10．Distribution of proceeds．The proceeds of the tax collected under［section 9］must be deposited as follows：
（1） 20 ：to the general fund of the county in whict the certificate required under 15－7－305 is executed；and
（2） 805 to the：
（a）incorporated area to fund planning and subdivision review functions that were，on July 1，1991，funded from the incorporated area＇s gen：ral fund or Erom a levy within the incurporated area if the property for which the certificate

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required under 15-7-305 is executed is located within an
incorporated area; or
    (b) county to fund planning and subdivision review
functions that were, on July 1, 1991, funded from the county
general fund or from a county levy if the property for which
the certificate required under 15-7-305 is executed is
located outside an incorporated area.
    NEW SECTION. Section 11. Repealer. Section 15-7-311,
MCA, is repealed.
    NEW SECTION. Section 12. Codification instruction.
    [Sections 8 through l0] are intended to be codified as an
    integral part of Title 15, chapter 7, part 3, and the
    provisions of Title 15, chapter 7, part 3, apply to
    [sections 8 through 10].
    NEW SECTION. Section 13. Effective dale. [This act] is
effective July l, 1991.
    -End-
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STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE
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    Form BD-15
    In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for HB0147, as introduced.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act imposing a tax on certain transfers of real property; providing for the distribution of the proceeds; providing penalties; and providing an effective date.

## ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The proposed tax rate is $\$ 1$ per $\$ 1,000$ of property value.
2. 34,890 residential and commercial properties valued at $\$ 1,554,596,989$ ( $\$ 45,200$ average) sold in CYl988 (DOR sales history database for CY 1988). Total agricultural sales are assumed to be 32,927 with the same average appraised value of $\$ 45,20$ (DOR database).
3. Revenue collected by the counties under this proposal will be distributed as follows: 20 o to the counties, and $80 \%$ to incorporated cities and towns to fund planning and subdivision review or to a county fund for planning and subdivision review if the property is outside an incorporated area.
4. A one-month delay in collections will result in $11 / 12$ of the annual revenue in FY 92 .

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Revenues: Under the proposed legislation there will be no revenue impact to state government; the revenue impact affect local government entities.

Expenditures: Beginning in FY 91, annual Department of Revenue administrative expenses (forms and distribution) will be approximately $\$ 4,100$ (General Fund)

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

Realty Transfer Tax

| FY 192 |  |  | FY 193 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Current Law | Proposed Law | Difference | Current Law | Proposed Law | Difference |
| \$ 0 | \$ 2,809,884 | \$ 2,809,884 | \$ 0 | \$ 3,065,000 | \$ 3,065,000 |

TECHNICAL NOTES:
The proposal may require county offices to perform appraisals of agricultural land based on market value. Depending on the extent necessary, this could significantly increase county administrative expenses.


Office of Budget and Program Planning


Fi:ical Note for HBO 0147 , as introduced.
HB 147

## APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

 ON TAXATION
## HOUSE BILL NO. 147

INTRODUCED BY COHEN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ¥MPESモNG-A ALLOWING A LOCAL OPTION TAX ON CERTAIN TRANSFERS OF REAL PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF TEE PROCEEDS; PROVIDING PENALTIES: AND AMENDING SECTIONS 15-7-301, 15-7-302,

 EPFECTIVE-BATE. ${ }^{\circ}$

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
Section 1. Section 15-7-301, MCA, is amended to read:
"15-7-301. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Realty Transfer Tax Act"."

Section 2. Section 15-7-302, MCA, is amended to read:
-15-7-302. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to:
(1) impose-a ALLOW A LOCAL OPTION tax on the transfer of real property and to provide for the distribution of the proceeds from the tax to the local jurisdiction where the property is located; and
(2) obtain sales price data necessary to the determination of statewide levels and uniformity of real estate assessments by the most efficient, economical, and reliable method."

Section 3. Section 15-7-303, MCA, is amended to read:
"15-7-303. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:
(1) "ASSESSED VALUE" MEANS THE VALUE THAT IS DETERMINED FOR TAX ASSESSMENT PURPOSES AND THAT IS SHOWN ON THE RECORDS OF THE COUNTY ASSESSOR AT THE TIME OF THE TRANSFER, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE SUBSEQUENTLY ADJUSTED. IF NO VALUE IS AVAILABLE FROM THE ASSESSOR, THE ASSESSED VALUE FOR THIS TAX IS AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO "VALUE", AS DEFINED IN SUBSECTION (6).
t¥t(2) "Partial interest" means a percentage interest in property when less than 100\%.
$t z+(3)$ "Person" means and includes an individual, corporation, partnership, or other business organization, trust, fiduciary, or agent or any other party presenting a document for recordation.
$\mathbf{3 + ( 4 )}$ "Real estate" inetudes and "real property" include:
(a) land;
(b) growing timber;
(c) buildings, structures, fixtures, fences, and improvements affixed to land.
f4t(5) "Transfer" means an act of the parties or of the law by which the title to real property is conveyed from one person to another.
t5t(6) "Value" means:
tay--in-the-case-of--a--transfer--of--interest--in--reat propertyp--other--than--a--gift--or--a-transfer-with-nominat eonsideration-or-without-stated-considerationt-the-amount-of the-fuiz-actuaz-consideration-therefor-paid-or-to--be-paitit inetuding--the--amount--of--any-łten-or-itiens-thereon on-the seat-property:-or
tbi--in-the-case-of-a-gife-or-a--transfer--with--nominat consideration-or-without-stated-constderationt-the-estimated price-the--property-wouzd-bring-in-an-open-market-and-under the-current-prevaiting-maritet-eonditions-in-a-sate-between-a wititng-setłer-and-a-witting-buyerf-both-eonversant-with-the property--and-prevaiłing--current--market--conditionsT THE AMOUNT OF THE FULL ACTUAL CONSIDERATION PAID OR TO BE PAID FOR THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING THE AMOUNT OF ANY LIEN OR EIENS."

Section 4. Section 15-7-305, MCA, is amended to read:
-15-7-305. Certificate of county clerk and recorder. (1) The county clerk and recorder shall cause to be executed by the parties to the transaction or their agents or representatives a certificate declaring the consideration paid or to be paid for the real estate transferred.
(2) No An instrument or deed evidencing a transfer of real estate may not be accepted for recordation until the certificate has been received by the county clerk and recorder and the tax impased by [section 6f 6] has been
paid. The validity or effectiveness of an ingtrument or deed as between the parties to it shałł is not be affected by the failure to comply with the provisions in this part.
(3) The form of the certificate shatt must be prescribed by the department of revenue, and the department shall provide an adequate supply of sueh forms to each county clerk and recorder in the state.
(4) The clerk and recorder shall prepare a like certificate for each contract for deed filed for recording.
(5) The clerk and recorder shall transmit one copy of each executed certificate to the department and one copy to the county assessor."

Section-5y--Section-15-7-3067-MEAt-is-amended-to-read-
435-7-306т--Rutes:---The----department---of--revente--may prescribe--such--futes--as--are--reasonabiy---necessary---te facititate-and-expadite-the-provisions-and-administration-of this---party=--inetuding--the--impositiont--cotzeetiont-and administration-of-the-tax-imposed-in-faection-8i""

Geetion-67--Section-15-7-3日7т-Meap-is-amended-to-read:
"i5-7-307--Certificate----axceptions才-- The--certifieate and-tax-imposed-by-this-part-shati do-not-appty-to

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t5i－－an－－－ingerument－－－which that－－－－twithout－－－－added considerationt－－confitrmst－correctst－medifitest－or－supplements a－previousty－recorded－ingtrument；
t6t－－a－transfer－pursutht－te－a－court－decree－of－partition：
f7才－－a－transfer－pursuant－eo－mergersp－conselidationst－or reorganizetions－－ef－－cerporationsf－－partnershapst－－or－－other business－entitiest
faf－－a－－trangfer－by－－a－－subsidiary－－corporation－－to－its parent－eorporation－without－ectuaz－consideration－or－－in－－sote consideration－of－the－cancełłation－or－surfender－of－subsidiary stoek；
t9†－－a－transfer－of－decedents－estates；
$\dagger$ ¡ $\theta+-$－transfer－of－a－gife
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Section－7才－－Section－45－7－3士日t－Ment－is－amended－to－readt
4 $\ddagger 5-7-3 \pm 6=-$ Penatey＝－－tit A Excegt－as－otherwise－provided in－－this－－sectiont－－a－－person－－eonvicted－－of－－viozating－－any provision－of－this－part－shati－－be－－fined－－an－－amount－－not－－to erceed－－$\$ 50 \theta$－－or－－be－imprisoned－in－the－county－jatz－far－any $\underline{E}$ term－not－to－exceed－6－monthaf－or－both：
†Zう－A－cterk－and－qecorder－convieted－of－recording－a－－deed or－－instrament－－evideneing－－a－－transfer－subject－to－tax－under fseetion－0t－without－ensuring－that－the－proper－anount－－of－－tax has－been－paid－shati－be－fined－950－for－each－offenser
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 fraetion－thereof－dectared－in－the－certifieate－required－－ander ł5－7－3日5－upon－the－transfer－of－titze－to－reat－property：
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## the-property-is-łocated--shałi--cateutate--and-eotiect--the

 amount-ef-tax-duetSECTION 5. SECTION 15-7-310, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:
-15-7-310. Penazty Violation. A person convieted-of Viotating-any-provision-of-this-part-shati-be-fined--not--to
 not--to--exceed--6--monthst--or-both who knowingly claims an exemption under 15-7-307 or [section 9] that he does not believe to be true commits the offense of unsworn falsification to authorities under 45-7-203."

NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. IMPOSITION OF LOCAL OPTION TRANSFER TAX. A COUNTY OR INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITY MAY IMPOSE A LOCAL TRANSFER TAX ON ALL TRANSFERS OF INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY, EXCEPT THOSE EXEMPTED IN [SECTION 9].

NEW SECTION. SECTION 7. AMOUNT OF TAX $--\quad$ LIEN. THE TRANSFER TAX IS IMPOSED UPON THE TRANSFER AT THE RATE OF SI FOR EACH S1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE OR FRACTION THEREOF AS CERTIFIED BY THE COUNTY ASSESSOR AS OF THE DATE OF THE TRANSFER OF TITLE. THE TRANSFEREE IS LIABLE FOR THE TAX AND SHACL EITHER PAY THE TAX OR APPLY FOR AN EXEMPTION. THE TAX IS A LIEN AGAINST THE TRANSFERRED PROPERTY AND MAX BE COLLECTED AND ENFORCED IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER TAX LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY ARE ENFORCED, INCLUDING THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES AND INTEREST.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 8. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE -

HEARING -- PROCEDURES. (1) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR AN INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITY MAY IMPOSE THE LOCAL OPTION TRANSFER TAX BY ORDINANCE. THE ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, AND REPEAL OF THE ORDINANCE MUST BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO TITLE 7. CHAPTER 5, PART 1, AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ACTION IS CONDUCTED IN WHICH NOTICE OF THE HEARING IS GIVEN AS PROVIDED IN 7-1-4128.
(2) THE ORDINANCE MUST ESTABLISH PROCEDURES NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE TAX, INCLUDING REFUNDS, DELINOUENCY COLLECTIONS, EXEMPTIONS, AND FILING OF NOTICE OF LIEN.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 9. EXEMPTIONS FROM TAX -APPLICATION UNDER OATH. (1) THE FOLLOWING ARE EXEMPT FROM THE TRANSFER TAX:
(A) AN INSTRUMENT RECORDED PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 1991;
(B) A TRANSFER MADE SOLELY TO PROVIDE OR RELEASE SECURITY FOR A DEBT OR OBLIGATION;
(C) A TRANSFER TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE STATE, OR ANY INSTRUMENTALITY, AGENCY, OR SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE;
(D) AN INSTRUMENT THAT, WITHOUT ADDED CONSIDERATION, CONFIRMS, CORRECTS, MODIFIES, OR SUPPLEMENTS A PREVIOUSLY RECORDED INSTRUMENT;
(E) A TRANSFER MADE PURSUANT TO A COURT DECREE OF PARTITION;
(F) A TRANSFER MADE PURSUANT TO A MERGER,

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CONSOLIDATION, OR OTHER REORGANIZATION OF A CORPORATION,
PARTNERSHIP, OR OTHER BUSINESS ENTITY;
    (G) A TRANSFER BY A SUBSIDIARY CORPORATION TO ITS
PARENT WITHOUT ACTUAL CONSIDERATION OR IN SOLE CONSIDERATION
OF THE CANCELLATION OR SURRENDER OF SUBSIDIARY STOCK;
    (H) A TRANSFER OF A DECEDENT'S ESTATE WHEN THE
RECIPIENT OF THE PROPERTY IS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE, CRILD, OR
LINEAL DESCENDANT OF THE DECEDENT;
    (I) AN INSTRUMENT THAT, IN EFFECT, TRANSFERS THE
PROPERTY TO THE SAME PARTY OR PARTIES; AND
    (J) A SALE FOR DELINOUENT TAXES, DELINQUENT
ASSESSMENTS, OR A BANKRUPTCY ACTION.
    (2) THE TRANSFEREE MAY APPLY FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM THE
TAX BY SUBMITTING, UNDER OATH, A WRITTEN APPLICATION TO THE
COUNTY CLERK ON A FORM TO BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNING BODY.
THE CLERK SHALL GRANT TEE EXEMPTION AFTER BEING SATISEIED ON
THE BASIS OF THE APPLICATION THAT THE TRANSFER IS EXEMPT
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (1).
NEW SECTION. Section 10. Distribution of proceeds. The proceeds of the tax collected under (seetien-9 SECTIONS 6 THROUGH 9] must be deposited as follows:
(1) \(20 \%\) to the general fund of the county in which the certificate required under 15-7-305 is executed; and
(2) \(80 \%\) to the:
(a) incorporated area to fund planning and subdivision
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review functions that were, on July l, 1991, funded from the incorporated area's general fund or from a levy within the incorporated area if the property for which the certificate required under 15-7-305 is executed is located within an incorporated area; or
(b) county to fund planning and subdivision review functions that were, on July 1, 1991, funded from the county general fund or from a county levy if the property for which the certificate required under $15-7-305$ is executed is located outside an incorporated area.
 MeAt-is-repeatedt

NEW SECTION. Section 11. Codification instruction. [Sections 06 through l0] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 15 , chapter 7 , part 3, and the provisions of Title 15, chapter 7 , part 3, apply to fsections 8 6 through 101 .

NBW-SBeq天

-End-

