

HOUSE BILL 662

Introduced by J. Brown

2/07	Introduced
2/07	Referred to Human Services & Aging
2/07	First Reading
2/07	Fiscal Note Requested
2/11	Rereferred to Appropriations
2/12	Fiscal Note Received
2/13	Fiscal Note Printed
3/19	Hearing
3/23	Tabled in Committee

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 662  
2 INTRODUCED BY J. Brown  
3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE OFFICE OF  
5 RURAL HEALTH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
6 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES; PROVIDING FOR THE DUTIES OF THE  
7 OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR LIMITATIONS ON THE FUNDING OF THE  
8 OFFICE; APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE OFFICE; AND PROVIDING AN  
9 EFFECTIVE DATE."

10  
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1  
13 through 5] may be cited as the "Montana Office of Rural  
14 Health Act".

15 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Findings and purpose. The  
16 legislature finds that residents of rural areas of the state  
17 are increasingly faced with problems in accessing rural  
18 health care. The closure of small rural hospitals, the  
19 inability of rural areas to attract new physicians, the  
20 elimination of existing physician services because of  
21 increasing practice costs (including the cost of malpractice  
22 insurance), the nursing shortage in rural communities, and  
23 the decreasing economic vitality of some rural communities  
24 have all contributed to the problems of accessing health  
25 care that are experienced by rural residents. While Montana

1 is not unique in experiencing these problems in rural  
2 communities, the need to maintain and enhance the economies  
3 of the state's rural areas requires that new and innovative  
4 strategies be identified and implemented to respond to the  
5 health care needs of rural Montana. It is the intent of the  
6 legislature in enacting [sections 1 through 5] to create a  
7 program to respond to these needs.

8 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Office of rural health  
9 created. (1) There is an office of rural health within the  
10 department.

11 (2) The department may work and contract with private  
12 foundations, health associations, health care providers, the  
13 state university system, and other interested public and  
14 private organizations in order to carry out the duties of  
15 the office pursuant to [section 4].

16 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Duties of office. The office  
17 of rural health shall:

18 (1) provide leadership and advocacy for rural residents  
19 with regard to rural health care;

20 (2) assist rural areas of the state in accessing health  
21 care;

22 (3) improve community involvement in delivery of rural  
23 health care by methods that include the conduct of  
24 leadership development programs for members of the  
25 community;

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1 (4) plan and assist in the recruitment and retention of  
2 health care professionals in rural areas;

3 (5) evaluate data on rural health conditions and needs;

4 (6) identify federal and state programs concerning  
5 rural health and provide technical assistance to public and  
6 private, nonprofit entities regarding participation in those  
7 programs;

8 (7) make recommendations to appropriate governmental  
9 and private entities on improving the quality and  
10 cost-effectiveness of the delivery of rural health care;

11 (8) encourage the sharing of rural health care  
12 information;

13 (9) establish and maintain a clearinghouse for the  
14 collection and dissemination of information concerning rural  
15 health care issues and conduct research related to rural  
16 health care, including innovative approaches to the delivery  
17 of health care in rural areas;

18 (10) prepare and submit reports relating to its duties  
19 to the governor, the department of social and rehabilitation  
20 services, the department of family services, the department  
21 of institutions, the department of commerce, the  
22 commissioner of higher education, and other appropriate  
23 state agencies; and

24 (11) coordinate its activities with the following  
25 entities:

1 (a) federal, state, and local health care agencies and  
2 private entities concerned with rural health care, including  
3 coordination for the purpose of avoiding duplication of  
4 activities;

5 (b) the Montana agricultural extension service, for the  
6 purposes of rural development activities;

7 (c) the federal office of rural health policy;

8 (d) the emergency medical services bureau of the  
9 department, for the purpose of improving access to emergency  
10 medical services in rural areas; and

11 (e) the Montana department of transportation, for the  
12 purpose of improving access to health care in rural areas  
13 through improved transportation and communication services.

14 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Funding limitations. Money  
15 appropriated to the department for the purposes of [sections  
16 1 through 4] may not be used for any of the following  
17 purposes:

18 (1) the provision of health care;

19 (2) the purchase of medical equipment, ambulances,  
20 aircraft, or other vehicles or to purchase major  
21 communications equipment;

22 (3) the purchase or improvement of real property; or

23 (4) to carry out any activity requiring a certificate  
24 of need.

25 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Appropriation. There is

1 appropriated from the general fund to the department of  
2 health and environmental sciences \$100,000 for the biennium  
3 ending June 30, 1993. The money is to be used to match  
4 federally appropriated funds available from the federal  
5 office of rural health policy, for the purposes of [sections  
6 1 through 5].

7 NEW SECTION. **Section 7.** Codification instruction.  
8 [Sections 1 through 5] are intended to be codified as an  
9 integral part of Title 50, chapter 5, and the provisions of  
10 Title 50, chapter 5, apply to [sections 1 through 5].

11 NEW SECTION. **Section 8.** Effective date. [This act] is  
12 effective July 1, 1991.

-End-

## STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for HB0662, as introduced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

A bill to create an office of rural health within the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and appropriating \$100,000 for the 1993 biennium to match federally appropriated funds available from the federal office of rural health policy.


ASSUMPTIONS:

1. DHES would contract for services under the appropriation provided for in HB0662 and any available federal funds.
2. The amount of federal funds available to the state is unknown.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY92</u>			<u>FY93</u>		
	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Proposed Law</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Proposed Law</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>						
Operating Expenses <sup>1</sup>	0	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	50,000
<u>Funding:</u>						
General Fund	0	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	50,000
Federal Funds (unknown)						

<sup>1</sup> Contracted services to be increased by the amount of federal funds available to the state.

  
 ROD SUNDSTED, BUDGET DIRECTOR      2-12-91  
 Office of Budget and Program Planning      DATE

  
 JAN BROWN, PRIMARY SPONSOR      2/12/91  
 DATE

Fiscal Note for HB0662, as introduced.

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