

HOUSE BILL 969

Introduced by Stickney, et al.

2/22	Introduced
2/22	Referred to Appropriations
2/22	First Reading
3/05	Hearing
	Died in Committee

1 *House* BILL NO. 969 *Bob Fispich*
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Bob Fispich*
 3 *Bob Fispich*
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY TO
 5 KUSM AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, FOR THE SUPPORT AND
 6 PRODUCTION OF PROGRAMMING, MAINTENANCE, AND UNIFICATION OF A
 7 STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING, INCLUDING EXTENSION
 8 OF THE CURRENT MONTANA SIGNAL TO WESTERN MONTANA
 9 COMMUNITIES; APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
 10 MONTANA TO DESIGN AND PURCHASE EQUIPMENT TO CONNECT WESTERN
 11 MONTANA COMMUNITIES TO THE STATEWIDE SERVICE; REQUIRING KUSM
 12 TO RAISE MATCHING FUNDS FROM NONSTATE SOURCES; AND PROVIDING
 13 AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."
 14 *Southworth*

15 WHEREAS, Montana was the last state in the United States
 16 to establish a full-service public television station; and
 17 WHEREAS, Montana's public television station, KUSM,
 18 located at Montana State University, currently serves
 19 230,000 Montana homes daily by providing service to viewers
 20 in Miles City, Chinook, Harlem, Glasgow, Malta, Glendive,
 21 Sidney, Billings, Lewistown, Helena, East Helena, Havre,
 22 Shelby, Cut Bank, Great Falls, Black Eagle, Malmstrom Air
 23 Force Base, Anaconda, Butte, Walkerville, Deer Lodge,
 24 Livingston, Bozeman, Manhattan, Belgrade, and
 25 Gallatin-Gateway; and

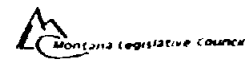
1 WHEREAS, Montana State University and the University of
 2 Montana have committed to a cooperative effort to provide
 3 statewide public television; and

4 WHEREAS, a second service hub is planned at the
 5 University of Montana where, in cooperation with a private
 6 cable company, during the next biennium the public
 7 television signal will be delivered to Missoula, Whitefish,
 8 Kalispell, Polson, Hamilton, Columbia Falls, Somers, Big
 9 Fork and Stevensville; and

10 WHEREAS, the level of support for public television has
 11 been demonstrated through annual private and public
 12 contributions from citizen and corporate contributions,
 13 contributions plus the use of facilities from Montana State
 14 University, and a grant from the Corporation for Public
 15 Broadcasting, a private entity funded by the United States
 16 Congress; and

17 WHEREAS, public television has an unlimited potential
 18 and opportunity to serve the needs of schools, universities,
 19 and governmental agencies by enabling Montana citizens to
 20 benefit from special programming designed by and for
 21 Montanans; and

22 WHEREAS, public television provides opportunities for
 23 shared programming of statewide interest in the areas of
 24 public affairs and economic development: primary, secondary,
 25 and adult education; and arts and performance, limited only



1 by the energy and imagination of the two universities, the
 2 spirit of cooperation among universities, colleges, schools,
 3 interested citizen groups, and governmental agencies, and
 4 funding from state and university sources and from private
 5 and corporate contributions; and

6 WHEREAS, state support is already available for public
 7 broadcasting, specifically public radio; and

8 WHEREAS, KUSM already provides low-power Montana
 9 television stations with access to Public Broadcasting
 10 System (PBS) programs through a distribution agreement with
 11 PBS and pledges to continue its cooperative relationships
 12 with the low-power public television providers, including
 13 the distribution of programs via satellite.

14

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

16 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation. (1) Subject to
 17 the provisions in subsection (2):

18 (a) there is appropriated to KUSM at Montana state
 19 university for the operation and maintenance of a unified
 20 Montana public television service:

21	Fiscal year ending June 30, 1992	\$100,000
22	Fiscal year ending June 30, 1993	200,000

23 (b) there is appropriated to the university of Montana
 24 to design and purchase equipment for the connection and
 25 transmission of the statewide service to western Montana:

1	Fiscal year ending June 30, 1992	\$ 30,000
2	Fiscal year ending June 30, 1993	150,000

3 (2) The appropriations in subsection (1) are contingent
 4 on KUSM raising matching funds equal to at least the full
 5 amount of the appropriations to KUSM and the university of
 6 Montana in cash or in equipment from nonstate sources.

7 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is
 8 effective on passage and approval.

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