

HOUSE BILL NO. 441

INTRODUCED BY KIMBLE, BRADLEY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING A TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO STUDY ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION."

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

Section 1. Policy. Recognizing the continuing and intensifying shortages in petroleum fuel resources throughout the nation, and Montana's present heavy reliance on gasoline-fueled motor vehicle transportation, and taking note of the dependency of Montana's agricultural community on transportation systems directed by out-of-state interests, the legislature declares that it is the continuing policy of the state of Montana to encourage the development of alternative transportation systems including, but not limited to expanded and coordinated railroad services and facilities for the improvement of passenger and freight transportation, with particular emphasis on efficient and economical agricultural commodity transportation; urban transit systems including intra-city bus lines or other mass transit systems; and to encourage other transportation-related research for the purpose of

reducing Montana's dependency on petroleum-fueled motor vehicles.

Section 2. Transportation study commission. For the purpose of implementing the policies of this act, there is created a transportation study commission which shall consist of seven (7) members, one member to be selected from each of the following agencies: The environmental quality council, the department of fish and game, the department of health and environmental sciences, the department of highways, the department of intergovernmental relations, the department of natural resources and conservation, and the Montana energy advisory council. Each member shall be selected by the commissioner or director of the respective agency from which the member is chosen. Members may not be compensated for their service as members, but shall be reimbursed for their expenses.

The commission shall be allocated for administrative purposes only; as provided in section 82A-108, R.C.M. 1947, to the department of highways.

Section 3. Term of membership. (1) Members of the commission shall serve until submission of the study and report as required by section 4 of this act. If a member is unable to serve a full term, a replacement shall be appointed from the same department or agency from which that member was appointed.

1 (2) Upon submission of the study and report as  
 2 required by section 4 of this act, the commission shall be  
 3 terminated, unless the legislature provides for its  
 4 continuation.

5 Section 4. Duties of the commission. (1) It shall be  
 6 the duty of the commission in light of the policies set  
 7 forth in section 1 of this act, to conduct a study for the  
 8 purpose of:

9 (a) assessing Montana's public and private passenger  
 10 and commodity transportation needs in both rural and urban  
 11 areas of the state;

12 (b) developing plans and programs for the expansion,  
 13 improvement, coordination and regulation of Montana's  
 14 railroad transportation system;

15 (c) developing plans and programs to assist local  
 16 communities in designing urban transportation systems;

17 (d) initiating research into alternative  
 18 transportation systems for the purpose of reducing Montana's  
 19 dependence on petroleum fuel motor vehicles.

20 (2) The commission shall conduct a series of public  
 21 hearings and informal workshops as it deems appropriate  
 22 throughout the state for the purpose of obtaining local and  
 23 area opinions and suggestions, and shall consult with other  
 24 federal, state, and local agencies with relevant expertise  
 25 in order to carry out its duties under this section.

1 (3) The commission shall prepare a report based on the  
 2 study conducted as required by this section, and shall  
 3 submit this study along with recommendations for appropriate  
 4 legislation to the 1977 legislature.

5 Section 5. Appropriation. There is appropriated the  
 6 sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the  
 7 state highway account in the earmarked revenue fund for the  
 8 biennium ending June 30, 1977, to the transportation study  
 9 commission created by this act. The moneys appropriated by  
 10 this section may be used for all ordinary and necessary  
 11 expenses incurred by the commission and its staff in  
 12 carrying out the purpose of this act.

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