

1 House BILL NO. 585
2 INTRODUCED BY Sheldon Kuntze

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR
5 ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY
6 DETERMINE GOALS AND PUBLIC POLICY GUIDELINES TO ACHIEVE THE
7 QUALITY OF LIFE THEY DESIRE; APPROPRIATING ONE HUNDRED
8 THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE
9 OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM
10 PLANNING, TO ADMINISTER THIS ACT."

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

12 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and
13 may be cited as the "Montana Quality of Life Act".

14 Section 2. Statement of purpose. The legislature
15 finds that Montana is experiencing significant shifts in
16 population and in the economy, creating great pressures to
17 change the way of life of its citizens. The legislature
18 views the maintenance and improvement of the quality of life
19 within Montana as essentially the task of creating the
20 future its citizens desire.

21 Decisions affecting the future at all levels of
22 government need to reflect a coherent statement of public
23 opinion. It is the purpose of this act to assist the people
24 of Montana in the process of formulating quality of life
25

1 goals and public policy guidelines necessary to achieve
2 them.

3 Section 3. Definitions. As used in this act:

4 (1) "Assembly" means the statewide Montana public policy
5 assembly established in section 9.

6 (2) "Comprehensive planning group" means the group in
7 each county that is formed to gather and determine public
8 opinion on the quality of life, under section 5 of this act.

9 (3) "Council" means the Montana public policy council
10 established in section 8 of this act.

11 (4) "Funding agency" means the governor's office of
12 budget and program planning.

13 (5) "Public policy guidelines" means those statements
14 of common concern and practical measures to achieve quality
15 of life goals.

16 (6) "Quality of life" means those physical, social,
17 economic, or other attributes of an area which are valued by
18 the residents of that area as contributing significantly to
19 their way of life.

20 Section 4. Powers and duties of funding agency.

21 (1) The funding agency shall enter into contractual
22 agreements with state and federal agencies and private
23 entities to aid in carrying out the objectives of this act.

24 (2) No more than fifteen percent (15%) of the funds
25 appropriated by this act shall be used to administer the

1 program. Fifty percent (50%) of the funds shall be reserved
 2 for use in the counties. Fifteen percent (15%) may be used
 3 for contractual agreements listed in subsection (1) of this
 4 section. Twenty percent (20%) of the funds shall be
 5 reserved for state assemblies, including necessary expenses
 6 for county participants engaged in the performance of their
 7 responsibilities under this act.

3 (3) Assistance in coordinating the process defined in
 9 section 5 shall be provided by the funding agency, or
 10 through contractual agreements, upon request by a local
 11 governing body.

12 (4) The funding agency shall assist in providing media
 13 coverage for these activities prescribed in this act and
 14 shall seek additional funding, as necessary, from
 15 appropriate foundations and federal agencies.

16 (5) Immediately upon passage of this bill, the funding
 17 agency shall notify communities by letter of the purpose of
 18 this act. The letter shall contain the following
 19 information: the availability of funds, qualifications for
 20 participation, general goals, and purpose of this act. Such
 21 letters shall be sent to: all county commissioners, all
 22 planning board members, all daily, weekly, and biweekly
 23 newspapers, all radio and television stations, all directors
 24 of professional planning staffs, and all county treasurers
 25 in the state, and any others deemed appropriate.

1 (6) Similar notification shall be repeated as provided
 2 in subsection (5) of this section in September of 1975,
 3 excluding those counties in which comprehensive planning
 4 groups have been formed under section 5 of this act.

5 Section 5. Creation of comprehensive planning groups.
 6 Comprehensive planning groups may be created in each county
 7 and shall be composed of elected county and municipal
 8 officials and concerned citizens. Members shall be
 9 appointed by the county commissioners. Where planning
 10 boards exist, the comprehensive planning group may consist
 11 of representatives of existing planning boards, augmented by
 12 elected officials and concerned citizens. Membership in a
 13 comprehensive planning group shall not exceed fifteen (15)
 14 members, but shall include no less than nine (9) members.

15 Section 6. Powers and duties of comprehensive planning
 16 groups. (1) A county will qualify for participation in this
 17 act upon formation of a comprehensive planning group, as
 18 provided in section 5 of this act.

19 (2) Funds directed to counties under this act shall be
 20 spent on public education and involvement activities, travel
 21 to meetings, necessary correspondence, communication,
 22 printing, and clerical expenses.

23 (3) Each county shall be eligible to receive one
 24 thousand dollars (\$1000) under the provisions of this act,
 25 to be administered by the comprehensive planning group

1 through the office of county treasurer.

2 (4) The comprehensive planning group's activities
3 shall consist of area and sub-area meetings within the
4 county, and other means found to be helpful to each county
5 in determining quality of life goals.

6 (5) The comprehensive planning group may request
7 assistance as needed of two varieties:

8 (a) the funding agency shall provide assistance to the
9 counties upon request in designing and carrying out the
10 process used to define quality of life;

11 (b) various state agencies shall provide, upon
12 request, technical information needed as background by the
13 counties.

14 (6) The comprehensive planning group is responsible
15 for preparing a summary of their county's defined
16 quality of life and public policy guidelines by June 1,
17 1976.

18 (7) The comprehensive planning group has the
19 responsibility of coordinating its policy guidelines with
20 those of neighboring counties where areas of concern cross
21 county boundaries. Additional funding shall be available
22 for multi-county meetings.

23 (8) All summaries made during this process are public
24 information and are to be made available to participating
25 citizens and members of the media.

1 Section 7. Guidelines for county meetings.

2 (1) Meetings shall be called by the comprehensive planning
3 group in each county.

4 (2) Meetings shall be directed toward defining the
5 quality of life for each area.

6 (3) Meetings shall be directed toward drawing up
7 general public policy guidelines which would maintain or
8 enhance that quality of life.

9 (4) Care shall be taken to record comments and
10 proceedings of all meetings.

11 (5) Meetings in a given area may be repeated as often
12 as deemed necessary.

13 (6) The process shall be repeated to coincide with the
14 governor's term of office to insure continued impact of the
15 goals formulation process until Montana's centennial year,
16 1989.

17 Section 8. Montana public policy council. The Montana
18 public policy council is created to further effectuate this
19 act. (1) The council is designated a non-partisan advisory
20 board.

21 (2) The council shall be chaired by the lieutenant
22 governor.

23 (3) Within a reasonable time, six representatives
24 shall be appointed on an evenly distributed geographic basis
25 from members of county comprehensive planning groups.

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1 (4) State officers that shall be appointed to the
2 council include the directors of the environmental quality
3 council, the department of natural resources and
4 conservation, the department of state lands, the department
5 of intergovernmental relations, and the state commission on
6 local government. Directors may designate an alternate.

7 (5) Two legislators from each house shall be appointed
8 to the council. Legislative members shall represent both
9 parties equally.

10 (6) All appointments shall be made by the governor.

11 (7) The council shall call triennial state meetings at
12 times complementary to the comprehensive planning group
13 process.

14 (8) The council shall be responsible to the 1977
15 legislature for the final reports by the comprehensive
16 planning groups and the statewide assemblies.

17 Section 9. Guidelines for statewide assemblies.

18 (1) The assemblies shall be called three times during the
19 year by the council at times complementary to the
20 comprehensive planning process.

21 (2) The assemblies shall develop goals and
22 implementing policies with assistance as needed by the staff
23 or consulting body of the funding agency.

24 (3) State assemblies shall combine the quality of life
25 goals and public policy guidelines developed in the counties

1 for the purposes of formulating a state goals program.

2 (4) Each participating county shall be authorized five
3 delegates to attend state assembly sessions. Expenses shall
4 be paid by the funding agency as provided in section 4(2) of
5 this act.

6 (5) The assemblies shall be two days in duration.

7 (6) The council shall determine the sites of the three
8 assemblies with each to be located in a different part of
9 the state.

10 (7) Interested private individuals, and groups with
11 statewide concerns, may participate at their own expense.

12 (8) It is the goal of this program that the process
13 shall be repeated to coincide with the governor's term of
14 office to insure continued impact of the goals formulation
15 process until Montana's centennial year, 1989.

16 Section 10. Appropriation. There is appropriated from
17 the general fund for the biennium ending June 30, 1976, the
18 sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to the
19 governor's office, office of budget and program planning, to
20 carry out the purposes of this act.

21 Section 11. Severability. If a part of this act is
22 invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid
23 part remain in effect. If a part of this act is invalid in
24 one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect
25 in all valid applications that are severable from the

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1 invalid applications.

2 Section 12. This act is effective upon passage and

3 approval.

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