

1 House BILL NO. 625  
 2 INTRODUCED BY Bradley Johnson  
 3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
 5 MITIGATION OF ADVERSE ECONOMIC SITUATIONS THROUGH THE  
 6 UTILIZATION OF TRANSITIONAL ECONOMICS; ESTABLISHING A  
 7 DIVISION OF TRANSITIONAL ECONOMICS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
 8 LABOR AND INDUSTRY; AND GRANTING THE GOVERNOR THE AUTHORITY  
 9 TO CREATE AN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF  
 10 THE ACT."  
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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known as the  
 14 Montana Transitional Economics Act.

15 Section 2. Legislative findings. The legislature finds  
 16 and declares that technological and economic changes of  
 17 state, national and international magnitude can produce and  
 18 have produced adverse economic and environmental effects of  
 19 significance for the state of Montana; that the Montana and  
 20 national economies are in a period of crisis; that  
 21 significant segments of the Montana public are burdened or  
 22 imperiled by this crisis; that substantial changes in the  
 23 structure and functioning of the economy may be at hand due  
 24 to this crisis; that these changes should be viewed as  
 25 opportunities for beneficial change and should be aided by

1 direct governmental intervention and assistance in the realm  
 2 of transitional economics, strong governmental efforts to  
 3 assist those harmed by the current economic crisis, and the  
 4 promotion of economic alternatives which are sound and  
 5 stable for this state over the long run.

6 Section 3. Policy statement. It is the public policy  
 7 of the state to effectively and actively assist in softening  
 8 adverse economic circumstances affecting the state in a  
 9 coordinated fashion; to explore and aid in the  
 10 implementation of economic alternatives which are culturally  
 11 and environmentally sound over the long run; and to explore  
 12 and aid in the implementation of programs for orderly  
 13 economic transition.

14 Section 4. Division of transitional economics  
 15 established. There is established within the department of  
 16 labor and industry a division of transitional economics  
 17 which shall have the following powers and duties:

18 (1) to collect and disseminate available information  
 19 on the status and trends of the Montana and national  
 20 economies;

21 (2) to study and report concerning the long run  
 22 economic, cultural, and environmental health of the Montana  
 23 and national economies;

24 (3) to study in detail and make available information  
 25 concerning environmentally and culturally sound economic

1 alternatives for the long run economic and environmental  
 2 health of this state and its future inhabitants consistent  
 3 with applicable state policy;

4 (4) to conduct public hearings and through other means  
 5 obtain public viewpoints on economic alternatives for  
 6 Montana's future;

7 (5) to coordinate and cooperate with existing and new  
 8 transitional economic programs, including adult education  
 9 and retraining, of the state to assure that the programs do  
 10 aid in softening the adverse effects of current and  
 11 projected economic difficulties and cooperate with agencies,  
 12 the vocational education advisory council, and the public in  
 13 implementing the policy of this act;

14 (6) to actively seek and expend available federal and  
 15 state moneys to accomplish the purposes of this act, with  
 16 special emphasis on funds needed to relieve the burdens of  
 17 economic difficulties including unemployment, retraining,  
 18 inflation, and recession;

19 (7) to recommend in a timely manner to the governor,  
 20 the legislature, business, labor, and the public, steps  
 21 needed to assure the long run health of the Montana economy  
 22 consistent with the state's policy to maintain a high  
 23 quality environment and a stable economy and to serve as  
 24 trustee for future generations of Montanans.

25 Section 5. Advisory council -- functions. The governor

1 may establish an advisory council to assist in carrying out  
 2 the provisions of this act. The council shall include  
 3 representatives of agriculture, labor, business, education,  
 4 active public interest groups, and the general public. The  
 5 council shall assist the division in carrying out the  
 6 purposes of this act, particularly in the determination of  
 7 public and expert opinion on needed economic changes and  
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Approved by Committee  
on Business and Industry

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