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*Senate* BILL NO. 380  
*Romney Cetrone Blaylock*

INTRODUCED BY  
A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MONTANA TRAVEL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION AND PROVIDE FOR ITS POWERS AND DUTIES."

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

Section 1. Establishment of Montana travel control administration. There is a Montana travel control administration, hereafter referred to as the MTCA.

Section 2. Director. (1) The director of the MTCA is appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate for a four (4) year term.

(2) The director's salary is fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) a year. The staff of the director shall consist of a secretary and a typist paid according to the state pay scale.

Section 3. Duties. (1) The MTCA shall receive, file, record, and maintain data repositories of all travel carried out by Montana state personnel.

(2) The department heads of all departments of Montana state government are required to prepare and transmit to MTCA advance notice of all instances where employees of the state of Montana are about to embark in travel both within

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and without the state, providing information as to when, where, and how this travel is to be commenced. The estimated cost of the trip in each case is to be part of this file together with names of quarters used by the state personnel away from home.

(3) In cases when complete data is unavailable prior to departure on travel, the information must be filed with MTCA upon return of the state traveler.

(4) Within the file must be included data advising whether the trip involved was conducted alone and if an effort was made to consolidate trips of more than one (1) individual employee in an effort to reduce costs.

Section 4. Travel reduced. Department heads of the state of Montana shall minimize trips as much as possible and effect consolidation of trips to reduce their number and cost.

Section 5. Exceptions. (1) This act does not include elective state officers when engaged in official business, however, attendance at gatherings at places or visits to localities, within or without the state, including conventions of similar office holders of other states, are not considered official business for any state offices other than the governor's. The ultimate test, in the purview of the MTCA will be whether lay citizens are provided with similar expense accounts.

-2- SB 380

1 (2) Exceptions do include personnel of the Montana  
2 highway patrol while engaged in routine duties but not if  
3 making abnormal patrols.

4 Section 6. Records public. The director of the MTCA  
5 will make accessible to all media, to the members of the  
6 legislature, and to the general public, under reasonable  
7 access periods, all information on the records which may not  
8 be removed from the MTCA office, but may be copied.

9 Section 7. Review of reports. At the end of each  
10 quarter of every year each elective state officer and  
11 department head shall review the data assembled by the MTCA  
12 using such information as a resource for eliminating  
13 expensive travel by state employees, curtailing duplication  
14 of travel and ascertaining more economical methods for  
15 effecting travel by state personnel.

16 Section 8. MTCA suggestions for reductions. The  
17 director of the MTCA shall review data assembled by MTCA and  
18 provide elective officers and department heads with  
19 suggestions indicated by the data which might reduce travel  
20 expenditures. If the director finds instances of what might  
21 be conceived to be travel abuses, the director shall call  
22 this situation to the attention of the proper administrator.  
23 If an administrator appears at fault, the director must  
24 advise all elective officers and administrators and the  
25 office of the legislative audit committee of the

1 circumstances. If there are repeated abuses, then warnings  
2 must be repeated; in addition, warnings from the legislative  
3 audit committee shall be repeated until such abuses are  
4 terminated. Copies of such warnings are part of the MTCA  
5 information for public use.

6 Section 9. Any effort to thwart the functioning of the  
7 MTCA is a felony and the legislature shall provide what it  
8 considers adequate punishment which may include legislative  
9 removal of the recalcitrant offenders from their employment  
10 by the state of Montana.

11 Section 10. This act is not designed to be oppressive  
12 and the administration of the MTCA is directed to give every  
13 apparent offender the benefit of the doubt, seeking to  
14 secure state personnel and public support in an effort to  
15 create economy and savings in state travel rather than waste  
16 and extravagance.

-End-

Reported back from Committee without recommendation.

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 2 Romney Cetrone Blaylock  
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