

1 ^H BILL NO. 613
2 INTRODUCED BY Stokerson

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE \$250,000
5 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR A MONTANA TAX REFORM COMMISSION;
6 CREATING SUCH A COMMISSION AND DIRECTING IT TO STUDY ALL
7 ASPECTS OF MONTANA TAXATION POLICY."

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

10 Section 1. Appropriation. There is appropriated from
11 the general fund for the biennium ending June 30, 1979, the
12 sum of \$250,000 to the governor, who shall expend such
13 portions thereof as are necessary to carry out this act.

14 Section 2. Purpose. The basic purpose of this act is
15 to study the complex fiscal situations that confront state
16 and local governments and taxpayers in Montana and to
17 provide research as a basis for comprehensive reform of the
18 state taxation laws, with suggested recommendations.

19 Section 3. Fiscal affairs study commission
20 established. (1) There is a temporary commission known as
21 the Montana fiscal affairs study commission, consisting of
22 the following persons:

- 23 (a) the governor, who is chairman of the commission;
- 24 (b) seven persons appointed by the governor
- 25 representing:

- 1 (i) the interests of agriculture;
- 2 (ii) the Montana bureau of economic and business
- 3 research;
- 4 (iii) the interests of the general public;
- 5 (iv) the forest industries;
- 6 (v) the interests of local government;
- 7 (vi) the interests of business; and
- 8 (vii) the interests of organized labor;
- 9 (c) four members of the legislature, two from
- 10 different parties in the senate appointed by the committee
- 11 on committees and two from different parties in the house of
- 12 representatives appointed by the speaker.

13 (2) The members of the commission shall meet upon the
14 call of the chair and shall be compensated for their travel
15 and expenses as provided by law for members of boards or for
16 legislators, as the case may be.

17 Section 4. Duties of fiscal affairs study commission.
18 The commission shall:

- 19 (1) analyze the funding sources for all levels of
- 20 government, including without limitation:
 - 21 (a) the taxation of:
 - 22 (i) income;
 - 23 (ii) property (including its classification and
 - 24 reappraisal);
 - 25 (iii) severance of natural resources, renewable and

1 nonrenewable;

2 (iv) transfers by inheritance;

3 (v) gasoline and other fuels; and

4 (vi) miscellaneous licenses, fees, and charges;

5 (b) income from investments and lands;

6 (c) revenue-sharing between levels of government;

7 (2) analyze trends in public expenditures; and

8 (3) recommend means of establishing a relatively

9 stable set of revenue policies and of preventing trends in

10 public expenditures from destabilizing such revenue

11 policies.

12 Section 5. Powers of fiscal affairs study commission.

13 The commission may:

14 (1) select a recognized economic research institute or

15 bureau familiar with the economy of the western United

16 States to carry out, under the direction and guidance of the

17 commission, staff work on the studies assigned to the

18 commission, which institute or bureau shall be reimbursed

19 from the appropriation to the governor;

20 (2) require every agency of the state or local

21 governments to furnish such information from fiscal records

22 as it may require and apply to the district court for the

23 first judicial district for subpoenas in the enforcement of

24 such authority; and

25 (3) conduct public hearings in cities and towns

1 throughout Montana prior to submitting its report to the

2 46th legislature.

3 Section 6. Report of the fiscal affairs study

4 commission. The commission shall report its findings and

5 recommendations prior to the convening of the 46th

6 legislature, by filing them with the department of

7 administration for printing and dissemination not later than

8 October 30, 1978.

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