HOUSE BILL 795

IN THE HOUSE

February 14, 1979	Introduced and referred to Committee on Taxation.
March 13, 1979	Committee recommend bill, do not pass.
March 14, 1979	Report adopted.

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arising within the county;

1	HOLLAR BILL NO. 795
2	INTRODUCED BY Jakender Mari Ke. du
3	July Doger Kemons
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A
5	DIFFERENT METHOD OF FINANCING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
5	ADMINISTERED LOCALLY BY COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENTS; TO SHIFT
7	PRIMARY FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROGRAMS FROM THE
В	COUNTIES TO THE STATE; TO PROVIDE FOR A MANDATORY TAX ON
9	PROPERTY OF 6 MILLS TO BE LEVIED BY EACH COUNTY FOR THE
10	PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE PROGRAMS; AMENDING SECTIONS 7-6-2426.
11	15-16-117, 39-71-118, 53-2-201, 53-2-207, 53-2-302,
12	53-2-304, 53-2-321, 53-2-606, 53-2-608, 53-2-610, 53-3-103,
13	53-3-105, 53-3-201, 53-3-302, 53-3-306, 53-3-307, 53-4-231,
14	AND 53-4-247, MCA; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 53-2-322,
15	53-2-323, 53-3-104, 53-3-304, AND 53-3-305, MCA.*
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17	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
18	Section 1. Section 7-6-2426, MCA, is amended to read:
19	#7-6-2426. Enumeration of county charges. The
20	following are county charges:
21	(1) charges incurred against the county by virtue of
22	any provision of this title;
23	(2) one-half of the salary of the county attorney and
24	all expenses necessarily incurred by him in criminal cases

- (3) the salary and actual expenses for traveling, when on official duty, allowed by law to sheriffs and the compensation allowed by law to constables for executing process on persons charged with criminal offenses;

 (4) the board of prisoners confined in jail;

 (5) the sums required by law to be paid to grand and trial jurors and witnesses in criminal cases;

 (6) the accounts of the coroner of the county for such services as are provided by law;

 (7) all charges and accounts for services rendered by
 - any justice of the peace for services in the examination or trial of persons charged with crime as provided for by law;

 (8)--the-necessary-expenses-incurred-in-the-support--of county--hospitals--and--poorforms--and-in-the-support-of-the indigent-sick-and-the-otherwise-dependent-poor-whose-support is-chargeable-to-the-county;
- 17 †9†<u>(B)</u> the contingent expenses necessarily incurred 18 for the use and benefit of the county:
- 19 <u>(10)(2)</u> every other sum directed by law to be raised 20 for any county purpose under the direction of the board of 21 county commissioners or declared to be a county charge.**
- 2? Section 2. Section 15-16-117, MCA, is amended to read:
 23 "15-16-117. Personal property -- treasurer's duty to
- 24 collect certain taxes on. (1) The county treasurer must
- 25 demand payment of poor taxes in support of public assistance

-2- INTRODUCED BILL

programs administered locally, authorized required by 53-2-321 [section 6], and road taxes, authorized by 7-14-2206 or 7-14-2501 through 7-14-2504, of every person liable therefor whose name does not appear on the assessment lists, and on the neglect or refusal of such person to pay the same, he must collect by seizure and sale of any property owned by such person.

- (2) These taxes shall be added upon the assessment lists to other taxes of persons liable therefor paying taxes upon real and personal property and paid to the county treasurer at the time of payment of other taxes, and all personal property assessed against a person shall be liable for the payment of such taxes.
- (3) The procedure for the sale of such property by the county treasurer for such taxes shall be regulated by 15-16-113 and chapter 17, part 9.**
- Section 3. Section 39-71-118, MCA, is amended to read:
 #39-71-118. Employee, worker, and workman defined. (1)
 The terms "employee", "workman", or "worker" mean:
- (a) each person in this state, including a contractor other than an independent contractor, who is in the service of an employer, as defined by 39-71-117, under any appointment or contract of hire, expressed or implied, oral or written. The terms include aliens and minors, whether lawfully or unlawfully employed, and all of the elected and

appointed paid public officers and officers and members of boards of directors of quasi-public or private corporations while rendering actual service for such corporations for pay. Casual employees as defined by 39-71-116(3) are included as employees if they are not otherwise covered by workers' compensation and if an employer has elected to be bound by the provisions of the compensation law for these casual employments, as provided in 39-71-401(2). Household or domestic service is excluded.

- (b) a--recipient--of--general-relief-who-is-performing work-for-a-county-of-this--state--under--the--provisions--of 53-3-302--through--53-3-305-and any juvenile performing work under authorization of a district court judge in a delinquency prevention or rehabilitation program;
- (c) a person receiving on-the-job vocational rehabilitation training or other on-the-job training under a state or federal vocational training program, whether or not under an appointment or contract of hire with an employer as defined in this chapter and whether or not receiving payment from a third party. However, this subsection does not apply to students enrolled in vocational training programs as outlined above while they are on the premises of a public school or community college; or
- (d) students enrolled and in attendance in programs of vocational technical education approved by the state board

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of public education at designated postsecondary vocational technical centers.

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- (2) If the employer is a partnership or sole proprietorship, such employer may elect to include as an employee within the provisions of this chapter any member of such partnership or the owner of the sole proprietorship devoting full time to the partnership or proprietorship business. In the event of such election, the employer must serve upon the employer's insurer written notice naming the partners or sole proprietor to be covered, and no partner or sole proprietor shall be deemed an employee within this chapter until such notice has been given. For premium ratemaking and for the determination of weekly wage for weekly compensation benefits, the insurance carrier shall assume a salary or wage of such electing employee to be \$900 per month.*
- Section 4. Section 53-2-201, MCA, is amended to read: 17 16 #53-2-201. Powers and duties of department. (1) The 19 department shall:
- (a) administer or supervise all forms of public 20 21 assistance, child protection, and child welfare, including the provision of medical care payments in behalf of 22 23 recipients of public assistance;
- 24 (b) administer or supervise all child welfare 25 activities, including importation and exportation of

- children; licensing and supervising of private and local child-caring agencies; the care of dependent, neglected, and 3 delinquent children in foster family homes, especially children placed for adoption or those of illegitimate birth;
 - (c) give consultant service to private institutions providing care for the needy, indigent, handicapped, or dependent adults:
 - (d) cooperate with other state agencies and develop provisions for services to the blind, including the prevention of blindness, the location of blind persons, medical services for eve conditions, and vocational guidance and training of the blind;
 - (e) provide services in respect to organization and supervise county departments of public welfare and county boards of public welfare in the administation of public assistance functions and for efficiency and economy;
 - (f) assist and cooperate with other state and federal departments, bureaus, agencies, and institutions, when so requested, by performing services in conformity with public assistance purposes; and
 - (q) administer and supervise all federal funds allocated to this state, end all state funds appropriated to the department for public assistance activities. and all money received pursuant to [section 6]. The department shall do all things necessary, in conformity with federal

- and state law, for the proper fulfillment of public assistance purposes.
 - (2) The department may:

- (a) purchase, exchange, condemn, or receive by gift either real or personal property which is necessary to carry out its public assistance functions. Title to property obtained under this subsection shall be taken in the name of the state of Montana for the use and benefit of the department.
- (b) contract with the federal government to carry out its public assistance functions. The department may do all things necessary in order to avail itself of federal aid and assistance.
- Section 5. Section 53-2-207. MCA. is amended to read:

 "53-2-207. Power of department in administering state
 grants-in-aid <u>public assistance funds</u>. In administering or
 supervising any state or federal funds appropriated or made
 available to the department for public assistance purposes,
 the department shall-have-the-authority-to+ may
- (1)--require-as-a-condition-for-receiving-grants-in-aid
 that-the-county-shall-bear-the-proportion-of-the-total--of
 local--public-assistance-as-is-fixed-by-law-relating-to-such
 assistance;
- (2)--make-use-of-oll-legal--processes--to--enforce--the
 minimum--standards--prescribed--by-the-department-under-laws

- providing-for-grants-in-aidy-provided--that--such--standards

 hatt--not--exceed--in--cost--the-amount-derived-from-levies

 stablished-by-state-laws-and
 - (3)--require that each part of the public assistance
 - NEW SECTION. Section 6. Funding of public assistance programs administered locally. Each county of the state shall annually levy a tax of 6 mills on all of the taxable property within the county. The money collected by each county from the 6 mill levy required by this section shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of an earmarked revenue fund account for the purpose of financing public assistance programs administered locally. The balance of the money needed to fund all of the public assistance programs administered locally by county welfare departments shall come from state appropriations, federal funds, and money received from any other source.
 - Section 7. Section 53-2-302, MCA, is amended to read:

 "53-2-302. County commissioners ex officio county
 welfare board. The board of county commissioners shall be
 the ex officio county welfare board and is hereby authorized
 to devote such additional time for public assistance matters
 as may be found necessary. The members of the county welfare
 board shall receive the same compensation for their services
 and the same mileage when acting as the county board of

public welfare as they receive when acting as the board of county commissioners, and The county welfare board shall be limited as to meetings as now provided by law, and the compensation and mileage of the members of the board shall be paid from county state funds. They may transact business as a board of county commissioners and as a county welfare board on the same day, and in such cases they shall be paid as a board of county commissioners but may not receive compensation for more than 1 day's work for all services performed on the same calendar day."

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Section 8. Section 53-2-304. MCA. Is amended to read:

*53-2-304. Staff personnel of county department. (1)

Each county board shall select and appoint from a list of qualified persons furnished by the department of social and rehabilitation services such staff personnel as are necessary. The staff personnel in each county shall consist of at least one qualified staff worker (or investigator) and such clerks and stenographers as may be decided necessary. If conditions warrant, the county board, with the approval of the department of social and rehabilitation services, may appoint some fully qualified person listed by the department as supervisor of its staff personnel. The staff personnel of each county department are directly responsible to the county board, but the department of social and rehabilitation services may supervise such county employees

in respect to the efficient and proper performance of their duties. The county board of public welfare may not dismiss any member of the staff personnel without the approval of the department of social and rehabilitation services, but the department may request the county board to dismiss any member of the staff personnel for inefficiency, incompetence, or similar cause.

(2) Public assistance staff personnel attached to the county board shall be paid from state public assistance funds both their salaries and their travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503 when away from the county seat in the performance of their dutiesy-but-the county--board-of--public--welfare---shall---reimburse---the department-of-social-and-rehabilitation-services-from-county soor--funds--the--full--amount--of--the--salaries-end-travel expenses-not-refabursed-to-the--department--by--the--federol qovernment---and---the---full--amount--af--the--department-s odministrative-costs-which-pre-placeted-by--the--department to--the--county--for--the--administration--of-county-welfare programs-and-not-reimbursed-to-tho-department-by-the-federal novernment.-Under-circumstances-prescribed-by-the-department of-social-and-rehabiliation-servicesy-the--relabursement--by the--county--boord--of--public--welfare-may-be-less-then-the county-share-os-prescribed-obove. All other administrative costs of the county department shall also be paid from

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county-poor state public assistance funds.

(3)--On-or-before-the-20th-day-of-the--month--following the--month--for--which-the-payments-to-the-public-assistance staff-personnel-of-the-county-were-madev-the--department--of social--and--rehabilitation--services--shall--present-to-the county-department-of-publie-welfare-o-claim-for-the-required reimbursementsv---The---county---board---shall---make----such reimbursements--within-20-days-after-the-presentation-of-the claimy-ond--the--department--of--social--and--rehabilitation services---shall---credit-(add)-all-such-reimbursements-to-its account-for-administrative-costs*

Section 9. Section 53-2-321, MCA, is amended to read: #53-2-321. County authorized to care for indigent and levy taxes therefor. The board of county commissioners, has jurisdiction—end—power under such limitations and restrictions as are prescribed by law, to—provide—for—the core—and—maintenance—of—the—indigent—sicky—except—as otherwise—provided—in other—parts—of—this—titley—or—the otherwise—dependent—poor—of—the—county) may erect and maintain hospitals—therefor—or—otherwise—provide—for—the same;—and—for—said a hospital or nursing home for the care and maintenance of the indigent sicks. For these purposes to they may levy and collect annually a tax on property not exceeding 13-1/2 6 mills, which levy shall be made at the time other tax levies are made on property as provided by

l laws or they may form a public hospital district as provided
in Title 7s chapter 34.*

Section 10. Section 53-2-606, MCA, is amended to read:

**53-2-606. Right of appeal. (1) If an application for assistance under this title is not acted upon promptly or if a decision is made with which the applicant or recipient is not satisfied, he may appeal to the board of social and rehabilitation appeals for a fair hearing by addressing a request for a hearing to the department. The board of social and rehabilitation appeals shall, upon receipt of a request for a hearing, give the applicant or recipient prompt notice and opportunity for a fair hearing. A county welfare board which is involved in a grievance shall be represented at such a hearing.

- (2) The department may upon its own motion review any decision of a county welfare board and may consider any application upon which a decision has not been made by the county board within a reasonable time from the filing thereof. The department may have an additional investigation made and shall make a decision as to the granting of assistance and the amount of assistance to be granted the applicant as in its opinion is justified and in conformity with the provisions of this title.
- 24 (3) If the department reviews a county decision on its
 25 own motion, applicants or recipients affected by the

decisions of the department shall upon request be given reasonable notice and an opportunity for a fair hearing by the board of social and rehabilitation appeals.

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(4) All decisions of the department or the board of social and rehabilitation appeals are final and are binding and shall be complied with by the county department and the state department."

Section 11. Section 53-2-608, MCA, is amended to read: #53-2-608. Method of issuing assistance grants. (1) Checks in payment of public assistance—with—the—exception of—general—reliefy shall be issued by the department of social and rehabilitation services upon approved certificates of award and reports of changes of such eligible grantees as are forwarded by the county department to the state department, and all such checks will be mailed to the individual recipient or the appropriate vendor. The checks in payment of public assistance shall be issued in the full approved amount for each eligible approved grantee, and the original monthly payment shall be from the state public assistance accounts. All public assistance checks shall represent cash on demand at full par value to the recipient and vendor.

(2) Whenever the department of social and rehabilitation services, acting pursuant to standards established by the department, determines that any otherwise

eligible recipient of old-age assistance, aid to the needy blind, or aid to the permanently and totally disabled has. by reason of any physical or mental condition. such inability to manage funds that making payments to him would be contrary to his welfare, the department may, under standards established under the state plan, make the public assistance payment on behalf of such recipient to another person found by the department to be interested in or concerned with the welfare of such needy individual. Before such payments may be paid to such other person, such person shall give a bond, with adequate corporate surety and in form to be approved by the department, running in favor of the needy individual and the state of Montana, conditioned upon the faithful use by such other person of the funds for the welfare of the needy individual. Such bond shall be in an amount equal to six times the amount of the monthly payment involved."

Section 12. Section 53-2-610, MCA, is amended to read:

"53-2-610. County-to--reimburse--department State

department to act as agency in assistance to ward Indians
(1)-On-or-before-the-20th-of-each-monthy-the--department--of

social-and-rehabilitation-services-shall-present-a-claim-for
reimbursement----to---coch---county---department---for---its

proportionate-share-of--public--assistance--granted--in--the

county-to-recipients-during-the-month-and-for-yendor-medical

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payments-mode-on-behalf-of-recipients-in-the-previous-months

The-county-department--shall-make-the-reimbursement-to-the

department-of-social-and-rehabilitation-services--within--20

days-ofter-the-cloim-is-presenteds

the-department-of-social-and-rehabilitation-services-for-any portion-of-old-age-assistancev-medical--essistancev--aid--to needy--dependent-childrenv-aid-to-needy-blindv-or-ald-to-the totally-disabled-paid-to-ward-Indians-or-for-any-payment--on behalf---of---any---person---in---a--state-operated--medical institutions The federal government may reimburse the state of Montana in-behalf-of-counties-providing-general-relief-to ward--Indians a sum in lieu of taxes which the-counties a county would eallect have collected pursuant to [section 5] if the lands of such ward Indians within the county were not in trust status-

(3)--(a)-Recipients--of--public--assistance--who-become wards-or-patients-in-a-licensed-nursing--home--or--hospitaly foster--homey--or--private-charitable-institution-shall-have the-county-share-of-financial--participation--paid--entirely from--state---funds--for--1--year--from--the-original-date-of entrustment--or--the--original--date--of--state---residencyy whichever--is-earliery-At-the-expiration-of-such-periody-the appropriate-countyy-as-defined-by-the-following--quidelinesy shall--become--financially--responsible-to-the-extent-of-its

legally-required-share-of-participations

(b)--The-county-in-which--commitment--of--en--edult--is
initiated---is---considered---the---county---of---financial
responsibility--except--where--court--decree--declares---the
residency-to-be-otherwises-When-en-edult-is-transferred-from
a--facility--or--institution--to-one-of-the-above-enumerated
facilitiesy--the--county--which---initiated---the---original
commitment---is---considered---the---county---of---financial
responsibility-except-in-the-case-of-an-adult-transfer---from
an--out-of-state--institutiony---in--which-case-the-county--of
financial-responsibility*

{c}--In--oli--cases--where--a--minor-patient-or-word-is involvedy-the-county--of--financial--responsibility--is--the county--in--which--the--parent--or--guardian-residesw-If-the custody-of-a-minor-is--entrusted--to--a--state--agencyv--the agency--may--make--o--reasonable--declaration--of-the-county residency-of-its-word-using-applicable-guidelines-enumerated in-this--sectionw--A--person--who--reaches--majority--in--on institutionv-upon-release-ond-restoration-to-competencyv-may determine--his--own--county--residencyv---Such--person-shall continue-to-be-a--financial--responsibility--of--the--county which--initiated-the-original-commitment-for-1-year-from-the date-of-releasey-at-which-time-he-shall-become--a--financial responsibility-of-his-new-county-of-residence*

Section 13. Section 53-3-103, MCA, is amended to read: #63-3-103. Medical aid and hospitalization for indigent. (1) Except as provided in other parts of this title, medical aid and hospitalization for county residents and nonresidents within the county unable to provide these necessities for themselves are the legal and financial duty and responsibility of the board--of--county--commissioners department and are payable from the-county-poor-fund state public assistance funds. The board of county commissioners. acting as the county welfare board, shall make provisions for competent and skilled medical or surgical services as are approved by the department of health and environmental sciences or the state medical association or, in the case of osteopathic practitioners, by the state osteopathic association or chiropractors by the state chiropractic association or optometrical services as approved by the Montana optometric association or dental services as approved by the dental association. "Medical" or "medicine" as used in this section refers to the healing art as practiced by licensed practitioners.

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(2) The board, in arranging for medical care for those unable to provide it for themselves, may have the care provided by physicians appointed by the board who shall be known as county physicians or deputy county physicians and may fix a rate of compensation for the furnishing of the

medical attendance.

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(3) The department may promulgate rules to determine under what circumstances persons in the county are unable to provide medical aid and hospitalization for themselves, including the power to define the term "medically needy". However, the definition may not allow payment by a county for general assistance--medical for persons whose income exceeds 300% of the limitation for obtaining regular county general relief assistance.

[4] In any case where the county-or state pays medical expenses or hospitalization for an individual, the county-or state is subrogated to the claims of the physician or hospital to the extent of payment. To the extent necessary for reimbursement of medical benefits paid to or on behalf of an individual, the county or state is subrogated to the rights of the individual to recover from a third party who may be liable to pay the medical expenses. The provisions of 53-2-612 which relate to medical benefits provided under Titles XIX and XX of the Social Security Act apply to medical benefits provided for in this section.

Section 14. Section 53-3-105. MCA, is amended to read: #53-3-105. Burial of indigent. The board of county commissioners shall make suitable arrangements to provide respectable burial for county residents and nonresidents within the county for whom the expenses are not otherwise

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available. <u>The cost of burial shall be paid by the</u>

department from state public assistance funds.**

Section 15. Section 53-3-201. MCA, is amended to read:

#53-3-201. Residency requirements. (1) Any person otherwise qualified who makes his home in Montana with the intent to become a resident shall be eligible for general relief.

- (2) If a person is absent from the state voluntarily, the is ineligible for general relief in Montana.
- (3) Aliens found to be illegally within the United States are not eligible for relief from state funds.
- (4) Nonresidents or interstate transients may receive temporary relief from county state public assistance funds in cases of extreme necessity and destitution until they are returned at state expense to their state of residence or origin.

Section 16. Section 53-3-302, MCA, is amended to read:
#53-3-302. Payment by check or disbursing order. All
general relief disbursements by county-departments-of-public
welfore the department shall be by warrant or check.
However, if the county-welfore department finds that a
recipient is in the habit of dissipating general relief
allowances instead of using them for the purposes intended
or that for any other reason it is better for the recipient
and his family to receive the allowance through disbursing

orders, then disbursing orders shall be used instead of cash payments. All such disbursing orders must be written in such form that the goods and merchandise to be provided may be furnished by any regular dealer in such goods and merchandise within the county of the recipient's residence." Section 17. Section 53-3-306. MCA. is amended to read: *53-3-306. County State liability for general relief. the Upon the filing of his application in the county of residence, a qualified applicant's general relief assistance shall be paid entirely from state funds, until-he-has resided-for-i-continuous-year-in-Montanay-at-which--time--he shall--become--a--financial--responsibility-of-the-county-in which-he-resides-st-the-expiration-of-the-1-year--periods--* person--who--leaves--Montana--with--the--intent-to-reside-in another-state-and-later-returns--to--reside--in--Montana--is considered--a--new-resident-for-the-purposes-of-this-chapter and-53-2-610(3)+

{2}--If-a-racipient-moves-from-his-original--county--of residence--to-reside-in-another-county--he-shall-continue-to be-a-financial-responsibility--of--the--original--county--of residence--for--l--year--from--the--date--of--his--change-of residence--If--during--this--l-year--period--the--individual resides--in--several--countiesy--he-shall-become-a-financial responsibility-of-the-county-in--which--he--resides--at--the expiration-of-the-l-year-period*

Section 18. Section 53-3-307, MCA, is amended to read:

"53-3-307. County medical assistance not to interstate

transients to be paid from state funds---exception. (1)

County--medical--assistance--under--53-3-103--shall--not--be
entitled-to-be-poid-from-state-fundsy

+2+--Medical expenses arising from accidental injury to

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interstate transients shall be paid from county funds and reimbursed by the state upon submission of a proper claim.*

Section 19. Section 53-4-231, MCA, is amended to read:

**53-4-231. Eligibility. (1) Assistance shall be granted under this part to any dependent child, as defined in 53-4-201, who:

- (a) is in need of such assistance; and
- 14 (b) is residing in the state on the date the
 15 application is filed.
 - (2) A relative whose needs are included in a grant must meet the same residence requirements as does the child concerned.

(3)--Any-dependent-child-or--relative-with-whom--the child--is--living--meeting--the--above-requirements-shall-be entitled-to-the-assistance--herein--provided--forv--but--the state-shall-pay-the-full-amount-of-such-assistance-exclusive of--the--federal-share-unless-and-until-the-child-and/or-the relative-with-whom-the-child-is-living-has-been--a--resident of-the-county-for-a-period-of-l-year-

1 Section 20. Section 53-4-247. NCA. is amended to read: 2 *53-4-247. Founty State liability when recipient moves 3 to another county. A recipient of aid to dependent childrenwho moves to another county in the state shall continue to 5 receive assistance with the approval of the department. The county-from-which-he-has--moved--shail--be--charged--by--the 7 department--for--such--county--shore-of-his-assistance-for-a period-of-1-yeary-ofter-which-time-the-county--to--which--he has--moved--shall--be--charged-therefore-The-department-will determine-the-date-of-transfery--The--county--from--which--a 10 11 recipient--moves--shall-notify-the-department-and-the-county 12 to-which-the-recipient-moves=" 13 Section 21. Saving clause. This act does not affect

Section 21. Saving clause. This act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, or proceedings that were begun before the effective date of this act.

17 Section 22. Repealer. Sections 53-2-322, 53-2-323, 53-3-104, 53-3-304, and 53-3-305, MCA, are repealed.

-End-

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