

HOUSE BILL NO. 790

Introduced: 02/14/83

Referred to Committee on Business & Industry: 02/14/83

Hearing: 2/17/83

Died in Committee

1 House BILL NO. 290
 2 INTRODUCED BY Dave Brown

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 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO EXPAND THE RENEWABLE
 5 ENERGY GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR
 6 PROJECTS THAT ENHANCE THE EFFICIENT USE OF NONRENEWABLE
 7 ENERGY SOURCES; AMENDING SECTIONS 90-4-101, 90-4-102,
 8 90-4-105, AND 90-4-106, MCA."

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

11 Section 1. Section 90-4-101, MCA, is amended to read:

12 "90-4-101. Purpose. The purposes of this part are to
 13 stimulate research, development, demonstration, and
 14 commercialization of energy sources which are harmonious
 15 with ecological stability by virtue of being renewable
 16 ~~thereby to lessen that reliance on nonrenewable energy~~
 17 ~~sources which conflict with and of nonrenewable energy~~
 18 ~~resource technologies that would extend the life of those~~
 19 ~~resources and to thereby further~~ the goal of long-range
 20 ecological stability and to provide for the funding and
 21 administration of such research. Furthermore it is the
 22 purpose of this part to allow the department to make loans
 23 through financial institutions in Montana for
 24 commercialization of alternative renewable energy."

25 Section 2. Section 90-4-102, MCA, is amended to read:

1 "90-4-102. Definitions. As used in this part, the
 2 following definitions apply:

3 (1) "Alternative renewable energy source" means a form
 4 of energy or matter, such as solar energy, wind energy, or
 5 methane from solid waste, capable of being converted into
 6 forms of energy useful to mankind, and the technology
 7 necessary to make this conversion, when the source is not
 8 exhaustible in terms of this planet and when the source or
 9 the technology are not in general commercial use.

10 ~~(2) "Person" means a natural person, corporation,~~
 11 ~~partnership, or other business entity, association, trust,~~
 12 ~~foundation, any educational or scientific institution, or~~
 13 ~~any governmental unit.~~

14 ~~(3)(2) "Department" means the Montana department of~~
 15 ~~natural resources and conservation.~~

16 ~~(3) "Nonrenewable energy source" means a fossil fuel~~
 17 ~~that is commonly used in combustion or for conversion to~~
 18 ~~electrical energy.~~

19 ~~(4) "Person" means a natural person, corporation,~~
 20 ~~partnership, or other business entity, association, trust,~~
 21 ~~foundation, any educational or scientific institution, or~~
 22 ~~any governmental unit."~~

23 Section 3. Section 90-4-105, MCA, is amended to read:

24 "90-4-105. Applications for grants or loans. Any
 25 person may apply for a grant or loan to enable him to

research, develop, demonstrate, or commercialize alternative renewable energy sources ~~or technologies that enhance the efficient use of nonrenewable sources~~. The department shall prescribe the form for applications. Applicants shall describe the nature of their proposed investigations, including practical applications of the possible results and time requirements."

Section 4. Section 90-4-106, MCA, is amended to read:

"90-4-106. Criteria for grant or loan awards. The department may award grants or loans to applicants under 90-4-105 in accordance with the following criteria:

(1) A grant may cover a period not exceeding 1 year, and the department may not commit itself to spending funds anticipated to be available more than 1 year after the grant period begins. The department may give an applicant a statement of intent to renew its support of his work, subject to the availability of funds and such other conditions as the department may express.

(2) The department may give preference to projects which are also supported by funding from the federal government or other persons provided the projects are consistent with the other objectives of the department. The purpose of this preference is to use the alternative energy research development and demonstration account for matching moneys in order to support more substantial research or

commercialization.

(3) The department may give preference to research centers unattached to existing educational institutions where several investigators can share supporting services. However, this shall not be interpreted to prohibit the department from awarding grants or loans to existing educational institutions.

(4) The department may give preference to research centers which make information available to individuals, small businesses, and small communities seeking the use of renewable energy sources ~~or of technologies enhancing the efficiency of nonrenewable energy sources~~ in their homes, plants, places of business, and small communities.

(5) All information resulting from such research shall be made available to the public and shall not become the private property of or under the exclusive control of any one company or person.

(6) The department may expend or commit available alternative energy research, development, and demonstration funds. The department may commit funds for demonstration purposes only when in its judgment such expenditures or commitments have good potential for producing savings of nonrenewable energy sources. The department may not commit funds for demonstration purposes when any of the following conditions are present:

1 (a) previous commitments of a similar nature were not
2 productive;

3 (b) a similar demonstration has been conducted within
4 close geographic proximity of the geographic location of the
5 proposed demonstration project;

6 (c) the proposed demonstration project would not
7 further the purpose of this part."

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