

HOUSE BILL NO. 876

INTRODUCED BY JACOBSEN, E. SMITH, ETCHART, SCHYE,
D. MANNING, TVEIT, VINGER, SOLBERG, RYAN, SHONTZ

IN THE HOUSE

February 15, 1983

Introduced and referred to
Committee on Appropriations.

March 28, 1983

Committee recommend bill do
pass as amended. Report
adopted.

Bill printed and placed on
members' desks.

Second reading, do pass.

Third reading, passed.
Transmitted to Senate.

IN THE SENATE

April 5, 1983

Introduced and referred to
Committee on Finance and
Claims.

April 14, 1983

Committee recommend bill be
concurrent in as amended.
Report adopted.

Second reading, concurred in.

April 15, 1983

Third reading, concurred in.
Ayes, 48; Noes, 0.

IN THE HOUSE

April 16, 1983

Returned to House with
amendments.

April 18, 1983

Second reading, amendments
concurred in.

Third reading, amendments
concurred in.

Sent to enrolling.

Reported correctly enrolled.

House BILL NO. *876*
 INTRODUCED BY *M. Gordon* --- *E. Smith* *E. Johnson*
Dave Manning *Frank Vinger* *Bobbing* *Ray* *By* *Lehner*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE RESOURCE INDEMNITY TRUST ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION FOR USE BY THE SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR AN EVALUATION, QUANTIFICATION, AND MAPPING OF THE GROUND WATER RESOURCES IN THE ANCESTRAL MISSOURI RIVER CHANNEL AND ADJACENT AREAS IN SHERIDAN, ROOSEVELT, DANIELS, VALLEY, MCCONE, AND RICHLAND COUNTIES."

WHEREAS, northeastern Montana has been undergoing extensive oil and gas development, rapid installation of irrigation systems, and planning for coal and potash development, and serious concerns relating to the ground water resources of the region have been expressed by the citizens of northeastern Montana; and

WHEREAS, water quantity, quality, and availability for the entire area need to be evaluated before further development occurs to determine optimum utilization of ground water for agriculture, industry, domestic, and municipal uses and minimize undesirable social, economic, and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, preliminary investigations begun in 1982

indicate that there are potentially large quantities of ground water in the ancestral Missouri River channel and adjacent areas in Sheridan, Roosevelt, Daniels, Valley, McCone, and Richland Counties that may provide the opportunity to increase productivity and provide new sources of potable water for municipal and rural areas, as well as stability for the agricultural industry of this semiarid region of the state; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Dakota and the Province of Saskatchewan are continuing to develop ground water resources adjacent to this region; and

WHEREAS, cooperation and support for an investigation have been pledged from many sources, including Sheridan, Daniels, Roosevelt, Valley, McCone, and Richland County conservation districts, the Northeastern Montana Land and Mineral Association, the Three Corners Boundary Association, the Montana Association of Conservation Districts, the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Oil and Gas Conservation Board, the United States Geological Survey, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

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

Section 1. Appropriation. There is appropriated

1 \$250,000 from the resource indemnity trust account created
2 in 15-38-201 to the Department of Natural Resources and
3 Conservation to administer a grant to the Sheridan County
4 Conservation District for the biennium ending June 30, 1985,
5 to complete the evaluation, quantification, and mapping of
6 the ground water resources of the ancestral Missouri River
7 channel and adjacent areas in Sheridan, Roosevelt, Daniels,
8 Valley, McCone, and Richland Counties.

9 Section 2. Report. The Sheridan County Conservation
10 District shall administer these funds in cooperation with
11 the counties named in section 1 and provide maps and a
12 report describing the quantity and quality of ground water
13 resources available in the region for use by area planners,
14 local organizations, state and federal agencies, and
15 citizens of northeastern Montana.

16 Section 3. Use of report and data. The Sheridan County
17 Conservation District and the conservation districts of the
18 counties named in section 1 shall utilize the report and
19 data in administering ground water rights reserved by the
20 districts in cooperation with the Department of Natural
21 Resources and Conservation as specified under Chapter 697,
22 Laws of 1979.

-End-

Approved by Comm.
on Appropriations

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SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT
(Finance & Claims)

That House Bill No. 876 be amended as follows:

1. Page 3, line 2.

Following: "\$250,000"

Strike: "\$1,000"

Insert: "up to \$150,000"

Following: "the"

Insert: "remainder of the"

Following: "trust"

Insert: "interest"

2. Page 3, line 4

Following: "Conservation"

Insert: ", after any allocations made under House Bill 447,"

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3 resource indemnity trust INTEREST account created in
4 15-38-201 to the Department of Natural Resources and
5 Conservation, AFTER ANY ALLOCATIONS MADE UNDER HOUSE BILL
6 ~~441~~ to administer a grant to the Sheridan County
7 Conservation District for the biennium ending June 30, 1985,
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