

HB 732 INTRODUCED BY HARRINGTON, ET AL.
ESTABLISH THE FULL EMPLOYMENT WORK PROGRAM

2/13 INTRODUCED
2/13 REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS
2/16 HEARING
2/16 TABLED IN COMMITTEE

1
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Harrington Daily* *Bill No. 732*
 3 *Spuch* *Steady* *Jacobson* *Arnold*
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE
 5 FULL-EMPLOYMENT WORK PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN
 6 APPROPRIATION."
 7

8 WHEREAS, unemployment in Montana is critically high,
 9 and the private sector is unable to employ all citizens who
 10 desire productive work; and

11 WHEREAS, the current level of general relief and aid to
 12 families with dependent children, set at 45% of the federal
 13 poverty guidelines, is unethical and inhumane; and

14 WHEREAS, Montana citizens need to improve marketable
 15 skills and desire wholesome employment for a creative and
 16 dignified existence; and

17 WHEREAS, low-income people need to secure themselves
 18 and their families economically and psychologically to
 19 become productive members of society; and

20 WHEREAS, economic disenfranchisement is destructive to
 21 individuals, families, communities, and ultimately the state
 22 itself.

23 THEREFORE, the Legislature of the State of Montana
 24 finds it in the best interest of the state to enact the
 25 following sections.

1
 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
 3 Section 1. Guaranteed minimum wage. The state shall:
 4 (1) guarantee each citizen a minimum wage of \$7,000 a
 5 year; and
 6 (2) provide that unemployed citizens be allowed to
 7 enroll in a full-employment work program established in
 8 [section 2].
 9 Section 2. Full-employment work program. There is a
 10 full-employment work program. A person enrolled in the
 11 full-employment work program:
 12 (1) shall provide proof that he has received a high
 13 school diploma or has completed a diploma equivalency course
 14 prior to admittance to employment or an employment training
 15 program;
 16 (2) shall perform a minimum of 40 hours of on-the-job
 17 training, inclass training, or employment a week. No more
 18 than 8 of the 40 hours may be substituted for employment
 19 searches.
 20 (3) shall pay state and federal income taxes while
 21 employed in the full-employment work program;
 22 (4) shall register with the local job service and must
 23 be terminated from the full-employment work program upon
 24 obtaining employment;
 25 (5) is limited to employment with private nonprofit



1 corporations and may not interfere with private businesses
2 or fill positions in state agencies;

3 (6) must receive the same legal holidays and vacation
4 package guaranteed state employees;

5 (7) may not be discriminated against in employment or
6 training opportunities because of age;

7 (8) must receive, if needed, temporary transportation,
8 clothing, and child care services.

9 Section 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated
10 \$217,000 from the general fund to the departments of social
11 and rehabilitation services and labor and industry for the
12 biennium ending June 30, 1989, to implement the provisions
13 of this act.

14 Section 4. Codification instruction. Sections 1 and 2
15 are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 53,
16 chapter 2, part 7, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter
17 2, part 7, apply to sections 1 and 2.

18 Section 5. Extension of authority. Any existing
19 authority of the department of social and rehabilitation
20 services and the department of labor and industry to make
21 rules on the subject of the provisions of this act is
22 extended to the provisions of this act.

-End-