

HOUSE BILL 681

Introduced by Kasten

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| 3/15 | Introduced |
| 3/15 | Referred to Appropriations |
| 3/15 | First Reading |
| 3/18 | Hearing |
| 3/26 | Missed Transmittal Deadline |

1 House BILL NO. 681
 2 INTRODUCED BY Montan
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 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MATCHING
 5 GRANTS TO PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS, VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL CENTERS,
 6 AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE
 7 AND EQUIPMENT; PROVIDING THAT THE GRANTS BE ADMINISTERED BY
 8 THE MONTANA BOARD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT; AND
 9 APPROPRIATING \$5 MILLION FROM THE COAL SEVERANCE TAX
 10 PERMANENT TRUST FUND."

11
 12 STATEMENT OF INTENT

13 A statement of intent is required for this bill because
 14 [section 2] grants rulemaking authority to the Montana board
 15 of science and technology development to implement the
 16 telecommunications grant provisions of [sections 1 and 2].
 17 It is the legislature's intent that the board adopt rules
 18 establishing application procedures, criteria to be used for
 19 awarding grants, the review process to be followed by the
 20 board in awarding grants, and other matters necessary for
 21 the proper administration of the grant program.
 22

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

24 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation. There is
 25 appropriated the amount of \$5 million from the coal

1 severance tax permanent trust fund, established under
 2 Article IX, section 5, of the Montana constitution, to the
 3 telecommunications projects account established in [section
 4 2]. The money must be used to provide grants on a matching
 5 basis and loans to public K-12 schools, vocational-technical
 6 centers, and community colleges for acquisition of
 7 telecommunications infrastructure and equipment. The Montana
 8 board of science and technology development shall administer
 9 the appropriation.

10 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Telecommunications projects
 11 account -- goals and criteria -- rulemaking. (1) There is a
 12 telecommunications projects account in the state special
 13 revenue fund into which the money appropriated in [section
 14 1] must be deposited. Any funds remaining in the account at
 15 the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the general fund
 16 but remain in the account and must be used for the purposes
 17 of this section.

18 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of Title 90, chapter
 19 3, the Montana board of science and technology development
 20 may award grants on a matching basis to public K-12 schools,
 21 vocational-technical centers, and community colleges to
 22 procure telecommunications infrastructure and equipment. The
 23 money may not be used for administration or operation of
 24 telecommunications systems or equipment.

25 (3) Each grant must be matched on a one-to-one basis by

1 the recipient.

2 (4) In developing criteria to be used in awarding
3 grants, the board should consider an applicant's ability to
4 purchase similar telecommunications infrastructure and
5 equipment without a grant and how remote an applicant is
6 from metropolitan areas.

7 (5) The board may adopt rules to implement the purposes
8 of [sections 1 and 2].

9 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Three-fourths vote required.**

10 Because [section 1] appropriates money from the coal
11 severance tax trust fund, Article IX, section 5, of the
12 Montana constitution requires a vote of three-fourths of the
13 members of each house of the legislature for passage.

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