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INTRODUCED BY Raney Cobb House BILL NO. 426

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR MONTANA; PROVIDING BENCHMARKS FOR MONTANA; PROVIDING FOR A MONTANA PROGRESS BOARD TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR ACHIEVING THE BENCHMARKS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Montana has the opportunity over the next 20 years to achieve sustained economic prosperity while enhancing the state's widely heralded quality of life; and

(2) Montana has the best chance of achieving such a future by clearly and measurably describing desired results and by asking appropriate institutions to be accountable for those results.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Benchmarks.** (1) The Montana progress board established in [section 9] shall prepare a report that measures how the state is performing on key benchmarks of social and economic well-being as described in [sections 3 through 9]. The board may add additional measures for consideration by the legislature. The report must be submitted to the governor and the legislature not later than December 15 of each even-numbered year.

(2) In preparing its report, the board shall identify those benchmarks in which the state is failing to meet expectations of performance and shall suggest corrective actions. The board should also highlight areas in which Montana has been unusually successful at reaching measurable objectives.

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Social benchmarks.** The legislature declares that the objectives of the people of the state of Montana are to become measurably the best-educated and most highly trained people in the United States by the year 2000 and to become equal in education and training to the best-educated and most highly trained people in the world by the year 2010. In its biennial report, the Montana progress board shall develop and present benchmarks that measure Montana's progress toward

1 achieving these objectives. The benchmarks must address the conditions of Montanans and Montana  
2 families at each stage of life, including those that relate to:

3 (1) healthy, nurturing families, including:

4 (a) reducing teenage pregnancies;

5 (b) reducing the number of children who are homeless or growing up in poverty; and

6 (c) reducing domestic violence;

7 (2) healthy babies and toddlers, including:

8 (a) increasing the number of healthy birthweight babies and babies whose mothers are drug-free  
9 and received adequate prenatal care;

10 (b) reducing infant mortality rates;

11 (c) increasing the number of infants and toddlers who receive adequate health care and  
12 immunizations; and

13 (d) increasing the percentage of children entering school who meet minimum developmental  
14 standards;

15 (3) increases in the number of students at various stages of life, starting at kindergarten and  
16 extending through college graduation, who achieve mastery in essential skills for their age and education  
17 level;

18 (4) increases in the number of students proficient in at least two languages;

19 (5) increases in the ranking of student achievement on academic subjects in international test  
20 comparisons;

21 (6) increases in student health and fitness and decreases in student drug and alcohol use;

22 (7) increases in the numbers of high school students who choose to participate in structured work  
23 experience programs and technical specialized education;

24 (8) increases in high school graduation rates and the standards required to receive a high school  
25 diploma;

26 (9) maintenance or increases in the number of young adults who receive vocational, baccalaureate,  
27 and postbaccalaureate degrees;

28 (10) increases in the percentage of young adults who receive entrepreneurial education;

29 (11) an adult population with:

30 (a) increasing levels of literacy; and

1 (b) a diversity of educational experiences;

2 (12) increases in the participation of adults in continuing training and education and increases in  
3 employer investments in continuing training and education;

4 (13) increases in the percentage of adults who are fluent in more than one language, have  
5 knowledge of global geography and other cultures, and have participated in intercultural exchanges;

6 (14) improvements in the effectiveness of preventive health care and safety practices, including  
7 those relating to vehicle safety restraints, the workplace, exercise, weight, and alcohol and tobacco use;

8 (15) reductions in serious health problems, including AIDS, drug abuse, alcohol-related accidents,  
9 unintentional injuries, and suicides;

10 (16) the opportunity for every Montanan, regardless of race or gender, to have an equal opportunity  
11 to participate in society, as measured by factors such as:

12 (a) reducing infant mortality rates overall and the gap among racial groups in mortality; and

13 (b) increasing the participation of women and minorities in public life, business ownership, and  
14 historically underrepresented professions;

15 (17) social harmony among groups as achieved by:

16 (a) increasing the number of schools that offer curricula that promote cultural diversity and conflict  
17 resolution;

18 (b) reducing hate crimes, civil rights violations, and sexual harassment violations; and

19 (c) reducing overall crime rates and the differences in crime rates among different racial groups;

20 (18) increases and stabilization in the percentage of seniors who live independently, participate in  
21 volunteer activity or work, and live above the poverty level;

22 (19) increases in the percentage of mentally disabled Montanans who live independently and are  
23 employed at least 15 hours a week; and

24 (20) increases in the percentage of Montanans with mental or physical developmental disabilities  
25 who live independently or are employed at least part-time.

26

27 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Quality of life benchmarks.** The legislature declares that it is the  
28 objective of the state of Montana to achieve and maintain an outstanding quality of life, as characterized  
29 by Montana's special natural environment, vital communities, accessible services, and the involvement of  
30 citizens. In its biennial report, the Montana progress board shall develop and present benchmarks to

1 measure the state's progress in achieving and maintaining an outstanding quality of life, including those  
2 that relate to:

3 (1) clean air, water, and land, including:

4 (a) increasing the percentage of air and water that is clean;

5 (b) reducing hazardous waste sites that have not been cleaned up; and

6 (c) reducing solid waste per capita;

7 (2) conservation of natural resources, including agricultural lands, forest lands, ground water,  
8 streamflows, and native wildlife species;

9 (3) outdoor recreation, including increasing the availability of natural areas to meet the diverse  
10 needs of a growing population;

11 (4) increases in the percentage of low- and median-income families and families with children living  
12 in affordable housing;

13 (5) increases in the accessibility of housing;

14 (6) increases in the percentage of public buildings and facilities accessible to Montanans with  
15 physical disabilities;

16 (7) increases in the percentage of households served by water and sewage disposal systems that  
17 meet government standards;

18 (8) reductions in the time that the judicial system takes to resolve issues;

19 (9) decreases in the rate of crime and recidivism;

20 (10) increases in community recreation facilities commensurate with population growth;

21 (11) increases in public participation in the arts and access to public libraries;

22 (12) increases in the availability, quality, and affordability of child care;

23 (13) improvements in the availability of and financial access to health care, including providing  
24 adequate compensation for injured workers;

25 (14) increases in public participation in elections and in volunteer activities;

26 (15) providing care for those physically or mentally incapable of living independently;

27 (16) increases in the percentage of Montanans who understand the Montana tax system and how  
28 tax money is spent;

29 (17) increases in the efficiency with which public services are provided; and

30 (18) increases in the percentage of public agencies that are high-performance work organizations.

1            **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Economic benchmarks.** The legislature declares that it is the objective  
2 of the state of Montana to achieve a more diversified economy that generates productive jobs and higher  
3 incomes for all Montanans and a business climate that fosters the diversified economy. In its biennial report,  
4 the Montana progress board shall develop and present benchmarks to measure Montana's progress in  
5 achieving this objective, including those that relate to:

6            (1) growth and diversification in manufacturing;

7            (2) growth in products that add value to natural resources;

8            (3) growth in small business startups;

9            (4) growth in professional services and other industry sectors, including growth in the percentage  
10 of companies that adopt high-performance work organization practices that create high-skilled, high-wage  
11 employment opportunities;

12           (5) growth in the share of products manufactured in Montana that are exported;

13           (6) growth in levels of income per capita and reductions in the percentage of Montanans living in  
14 poverty;

15           (7) growth in jobs by region that at least meets the indigenous population growth by region;

16           (8) the competitiveness of Montana's workers' compensation, health care, and energy costs in  
17 relation to national averages;

18           (9) the availability of clean air, clean water, and land to accommodate additional economic growth;

19           (10) reductions in the time required to receive government permits;

20           (11) growth in access of direct air transportation to points nationwide and worldwide;

21           (12) maintenance and improvements of roads and bridges;

22           (13) increases in the availability of telecommunications systems for advanced uses and that handle  
23 data and imaging transmission;

24           (14) growth in research and development activity by public and private institutions; and

25           (15) a tax structure that:

26           (a) provides for vital public needs; and

27           (b) creates incentives for continued economic growth.

28  
29           **NEW SECTION. Section 6. State five-year plan.** (1) The legislature adopts the following  
30 benchmarks as critical areas for attention and focus over the next 5 years for achieving the broader goal

1 of becoming an exceptional people:

2 (a) reducing pregnancy among girls 10 to 17 years of age;

3 (b) increasing the number of children entering kindergarten who meet developmental standards for  
4 their age;

5 (c) reducing the number of mothers who use alcohol or illicit drugs during pregnancy;

6 (d) reducing teenage drug and alcohol use;

7 (e) increasing the numbers of high school students with mastery in essential skills and technical and  
8 entrepreneurial skills that will prepare them for well-paying jobs and business ownership;

9 (f) reducing hate crimes; and

10 (g) increasing the percentage of displaced workers who find employment at pay levels close to the  
11 levels that they were earning previously.

12 (2) The legislature adopts the following benchmarks as critical areas for attention and focus over  
13 the next 5 years for achieving Montana's long-range goals for quality of life:

14 (a) increasing the percentage of Montanans living where the air meets government standards;

15 (b) increasing the percentage of Montana households below median income who spend less than  
16 30% of their incomes on housing;

17 (c) increasing the percentage of Montanans with access to basic health care; and

18 (d) increasing the availability of health care to Montanans living in all geographic areas of the state.

19 (3) The legislature adopts the following benchmarks as critical areas for attention and focus over  
20 the next 5 years for achieving Montana's long-range goals for the economy:

21 (a) reducing workers' compensation rates in relation to the rates of other states;

22 (b) increasing the percentage of lumber and wood products manufacturing employees in value-added  
23 manufacturing;

24 (c) increasing the percentage of industrial sites identified in comprehensive plans that are actually  
25 suitable for development; and

26 (d) maintaining a tax system that is competitive and that provides a high level of efficient services.

27

28 **NEW SECTION. Section 7. Long-term objectives.** The legislature adopts the following benchmarks  
29 as key long-term objectives for Montana:

30 (1) increasing the percentage of Montanans with good health practices;

1 (2) increasing the percentage of high school students who achieve mastery in essential skills;

2 (3) increasing student math skills to levels equal to the best in the world;

3 (4) increasing the levels of literacy of adults;

4 (5) improving the quality of air in communities that currently do not meet standards and maintaining  
5 air quality in communities where air quality standards currently are met;

6 (6) ensuring that housing is affordable;

7 (7) reducing crime rates;

8 (8) raising the levels of income per capita;

9 (9) increasing the diversity of economic activity in the state;

10 (10) increasing the levels of exports of Montana products; and

11 (11) maintaining a balance of jobs in all geographic areas of the state.

12  
13 **NEW SECTION. Section 8. Purpose of Montana progress board.** (1) The legislature finds that:

14 (a) the Montana economy of the future can provide unparalleled opportunity while maintaining  
15 Montana's traditional values if the state pursues the future with clarity of purpose and perseverance;

16 (b) the Montana economy is in the midst of a massive transition created by technological changes,  
17 global competition, and new production practices; and

18 (c) in order to maintain employment opportunities, increase income levels, reduce poverty, and  
19 generate the public revenue needed to provide public services, Montana must increasingly rely on an  
20 economy that adds value to its natural resources and provides a diverse mix of products.

21 (2) The legislature declares that it is the purpose of the Montana progress board:

22 (a) to encourage the discussion and understanding of critical global and national economic trends  
23 that will affect the Montana economy in the coming decades;

24 (b) to formulate and submit to Montanans a strategy that describes and explains a vision for  
25 Montana's economic progress over the next 20 to 30 years; and

26 (c) to submit to the legislature for its adoption goals for Montana's progress, including measurable  
27 indicators of the achievement of those goals.

28  
29 **NEW SECTION. Section 9. Montana progress board.** (1) There is a Montana progress board  
30 consisting of nine members. The board is attached to the office of the governor for administrative purposes

1 only as provided in 2-15-121.

2 (2) The board consists of the following members:

3 (a) the governor or a designee; and

4 (b) eight members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate.

5 (3) The term of office of each member is 4 years. Before the expiration of the term of a member,  
6 the governor shall appoint a successor whose term begins on the following January 31. A member is  
7 eligible for reappointment. If there is a vacancy, the governor shall make an appointment for the unexpired  
8 term.

9 (4) A member of the board is entitled to compensation and expenses as provided in 2-15-122(5).

10 (5) Members of the board must be appointed to be representative of the gender, ethnic, social,  
11 cultural, and economic diversity of the people of this state.

12

13 **NEW SECTION. Section 10. Board powers and duties.** (1) The governor may appoint an executive  
14 officer for the Montana progress board for a term and with duties and powers that the board determines  
15 to be necessary or appropriate.

16 (2) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

17 (3) The board shall meet as the board determines necessary at times and places specified by the  
18 call of the presiding officer or a majority of the members of the board.

19 (4) The board shall develop a strategy for Montana that addresses the social, cultural,  
20 environmental, economic, and other needs and aspirations of the people of Montana based on {sections 1  
21 through 8}.

22 (5) The strategy developed by the board must address issues that the board determines are  
23 necessary and appropriate to Montana's future. The issues must include:

24 (a) education and workforce;

25 (b) public and private cooperation;

26 (c) environmental quality;

27 (d) infrastructure; and

28 (e) other issues that the board, by majority vote, adds to the strategy.

29 (6) In developing the strategy, the board shall hold public hearings, public meetings, and workshops  
30 as needed to ensure the participation of a broad cross section of Montana's population. The board shall



1 publicize the public hearings, public meetings, and workshops in each city in which they are held and shall  
2 allow interested residents and other individuals to appear and be heard by the board.

3 (7) After considering any written comments and public testimony relating to the proposed strategy,  
4 the board shall revise the strategy as it considers necessary or appropriate. The board, by a vote of a  
5 majority of its members, shall approve and adopt a final strategy. The board shall submit, in addition to  
6 its adopted strategy, a summary of comments and public testimony and its response, if any, to those  
7 comments. The adopted strategy must be submitted to the legislature along with any recommended  
8 changes to [sections 1 through 8].

9

10 **NEW SECTION. Section 11. Implementation plan.** As a part of the strategy adopted under [section  
11 10], the Montana progress board shall also adopt a recommended implementation plan. This plan must  
12 include recommendations for statutory or other changes the board considers appropriate, modifications in  
13 public fiscal and spending policies, and recommendations for implementing actions to be carried out by local  
14 governments, businesses, private citizens, and other organizations in order to meet the goals of [sections  
15 1 through 8].

16

17 **NEW SECTION. Section 12. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 1995.

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-END-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Note for HB426, as introduced

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act providing a long-term plan for Montana; providing benchmarks for Montana; providing for a Montana progress board to develop strategies and implementation plans for achieving the benchmarks; and providing an effective date.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The act is effective July 1, 1995.
2. Section 10 of the act provides for appointment of an executive officer.
3. The executive officer position would be exempt from the state classification and pay plan, and would be paid at the \$45,000 range.
4. A professional staff of 3.00 FTE grade 16 (\$110,307 in FY96 and \$110,700 in FY97) will be needed to deal with three distinct areas of expertise.
5. A staff support position at a grade 12 will be needed.
6. Operating expenses include printing a biennial report, office supplies, telephone, and postage.
7. Travel for the nine board members and staff to attend quarterly meetings and public hearings would be approximately \$28,000 a year.
8. One-time-only start-up costs of \$24,050 for computers, equipment and furniture are in FY96.
9. The cost of the long-term plan will be one-half the cost for the State of Minnesota which recently completed a similar plan with 10.00 FTE and \$500,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Governor's Office

Expenditures:

	<u>FY96</u>	<u>FY97</u>
	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>
FTE	5.00	5.00
Personal Services	192,192	195,288
Operating Expenses	48,401	53,401
Equipment	<u>24,050</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	264,643	248,689

Funding:

General Fund(01)	264,643	248,689
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Net Impact:

General Fund	(264,643)	(248,689)
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*Dave Lewis 2-9-95*

DAVE LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR      DATE  
Office of Budget and Program Planning

*Bob Raney 2/14/95*

BOB RANEY, PRIMARY SPONSOR      DATE

Fiscal Note for HB0426, as introduced

**HB 426**