1	House BILL NO. 542
2	INTRODUCED BY USh Water
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE MONTANA PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT
5	TASK FORCE; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; REQUIRING A
6	PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN; AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
7	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES TO AWARD GRANTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT
8	DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS; APPROPRIATING MONEY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE
9	DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."
10	
11	WHEREAS, core public health functions are vital to protecting the health of Montanans and to
12	reducing health care costs by preventing disease, injury, disability, and premature death; and
13	WHEREAS, core public health functions are distinct from medical care, and if neglected, the health
14	and economy of the state will suffer; and
15	WHEREAS, proved public health services are the most inexpensive, effective measures by which
16	to protect Montanans' health; and
17	WHEREAS, Montana's local public health systems are not adequate to protect the public from
18	preventable public health threats, yet resources are limited.
19	THEREFORE, the Montana Public Health Improvement Act is enacted to strengthen the ability to
20	prevent health problems and to focus public health resources on the public health threats determined to be
21	priorities in communities and the state.
22	
23	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
24	
25	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 6] may be cited as the "Montana
26	Public Health Improvement Act".
27	
28	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Legislative findings and purpose. (1) The legislature finds that a
29	strong public health system helps control public health care costs through the prevention of disease and



HB542 INTRODUCED BILL

premature death. The legislature also finds that many local public health systems in Montana do not have

54th Legislature LC0834.01

sufficient capacity in core functions, such as prevention of communicable and chronic diseases, provision of public health nursing services, protection of environmental health, and promotion of healthy behaviors to provide adequate protection to Montanans from public health threats.

(2) The legislature declares that the purpose of the Montana Public Health Improvement Act is to assist local governments and community organizations to determine the most serious threats to public health, to determine a method to address those threats, and to provide local and state decisionmakers with a framework for prioritizing a public response to those threats.

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- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 3. Definitions. Unless a contrary intent is indicated, the following definitions apply in [sections 1 through 6]:
  - (1) "Core functions" means the ability of a public health department to:
- 12 (a) prevent epidemics;
- 13 (b) promote healthy behaviors;
- 14 (c) provide public health nursing services;
- 15 (d) provide environmental health protection;
- 16 (e) monitor health status;
- 17 (f) develop health-based policies;
- 18 (g) mobilize communities;
- 19 (h) respond to disasters; and
- 20 (i) provide health services to high-risk persons who are hard to reach.
- 21 (2) "Department" means the department of health and environmental sciences provided for in 22 2-15-2101.
- 23 (3) "Health care provider" means an individual licensed by the state to provide health care within the scope of the individual's license.
- 25 (4) "Local board of health" or "local board" means a local board as defined in 50-2-101.
- 26 (5) "Municipality" means a city or town.
- 27 (6) "Public health improvement plan" or "plan" means the public health improvement plan required by [section 5].
- 29 (7) "Rural county" means a county with a population density of six or fewer people per square 30 mile.



1	(8) "Task force" means the Montana public health improvement task force created in [section 4].
2	
3	NEW SECTION. Section 4. Montana public health improvement task force. (1) There is a Montana
4	public health improvement task force consisting of the following members:
5	(a) two representatives of local boards of health or health departments, from one of the state's four
6	largest municipalities, with expertise in each of the following subject areas:
7	(i) one representative, maternal and child health or health promotion; and
8	(ii) one representative, environmental health;
9	(b) two county health officers or county health department directors from the counties containing
10	the state's four largest municipalities;
11	(c) two representatives of local boards of health or health departments from the state's rural
12	counties with populations over 5,000 residents;
13	(d) one public health representative from a county with fewer than 5,000 residents;
14	(e) one representative of the Indian health service or Montana Indian tribes;
15	(f) one member of the Montana house of representatives;
16	(g) one member of the Montana senate;
17	(h) one health care provider;
18	(i) one citizen concerned with public health;
19	(j) one member of the Montana health care authority; and
20	(k) the director and one member of the staff of the department.
21	(2) Members of the task force must be appointed by the governor by June 30, 1995.
22	(3) The director of the department shall serve as presiding officer of the task force.
23	(4) Members of the task force serve without compensation but must be reimbursed for their
24	expenses.
25	(5) The task force is attached to the department for administrative purposes only as provided in
26	2-15-121. The department shall provide staff assistance to the task force.
27	
28	NEW SECTION. Section 5. Task force to prepare public health improvement plan. (1) The task
29	force shall prepare a public health improvement plan that addresses the following subjects:
30	(a) the ability or capacity of local boards to provide core functions and the standards by which that



capacity must be measured, including:

2	(i) a determination of public health strengths and weaknesses in communities and the state;
3	(ii) a determination of which municipalities do not meet the capacity standards established by the
4	task force;
5	(iii) an analysis of the costs and benefits of adoption of capacity standards; and
6	(iv) a plan for municipalities in order to achieve the capacity standards established by the task force;
7	(b) strategies for improving state and local public health programs, including:
8	(i) a determination of the needs of local boards, municipalities, and state agencies in order to
9	achieve the capacity standards established by the task force in the most critical core functions;
10	(ii) an examination of a strategy, such as establishment of geographic regions, for cost-effective
11	administration and delivery of public health services;
12	(iii) identification of methods to network local public health services to each other and to state
13	public health services; and
14	(iv) a review of laws, rules, ordinances, and policies pertaining to public health;
15	(c) consideration of population-based public health activities, including:
16	(i) assessment of health data;
17	(ii) surveillance of chronic and infectious diseases;
18	(iii) rapid response to outbreaks of communicable diseases;
19	(iv) efforts to prevent and control communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis and acquired
20	immunodeficiency syndrome;
21	(v) health education to promote healthy behaviors and to reduce the prevalence of chronic
22	diseases, such as those linked to the use of tobacco, including poor nutrition, and physical activity,
23	cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes;
24	(vi) access to primary care in coordination with community-based health care organizations;
25	(vii) programs to ensure that children are born as healthy as possible and that they can receive
26	immunizations and adequate nutrition;
27	(viii) efforts to prevent injury;
28	(ix) programs to ensure the safety of drinking water and food supplies;
29	(x) control of poisons;
30	(xi) services for treatment of trauma; and



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(xii) other activities that have the potential to improve the health of the population or special populations and to reduce the need for or costs of health services;

- (d) a plan for the funding of other parts of the plan, including:
- (i) a recommended level for funding public health services, to be expressed in a percentage of total health services expenditures in the state or in a set per capita amount;
  - (ii) methods to ensure that proposed funding does not supplant existing funding; and
  - (iii) identification of federal and private funding opportunities;
- (e) identification of methods of integrating health status data into the health planning process and into local and regional planning;
- (f) recommendations for coordinating public health improvements with health care reform efforts and for continuance of the task force beyond 1996; and
- (g) a plan for implementing the recommendations contained in the plan in the years 1997 through1999.
- (2) The task force shall send a copy of the public health improvement plan to the governor and to the legislature on or before September 30, 1996.
- (3) Local boards, municipalities, and state agencies shall cooperate with the task force in the preparation of the plan required by this section.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 6. Department to request proposals for public health improvement demonstration projects -- grants to counties or regions. (1) The department shall advertise for proposals to conduct public health improvement demonstration projects. Proposals may be submitted by counties or by individuals or community organizations within the health care planning regions established by 50-4-401. The department shall award at least one demonstration project grant within each region

established by 50-4-401, unless the demonstration project proposals submitted from a region fail, in the

judgment of the department, to meet the requirements of subsection (2). If a grant is not awarded within

- a region, the department shall use the project grant money not awarded for grants within other regions.

  (2) The department shall award a demonstration project grant for a project that will best assist a
- 28 county or region to:

- (a) mobilize a local or regional coalition to conduct health monitoring and planning;
- (b) prepare a local health status profile;



1	(c) prepare a community-based action plan to identify and address public health priorities;
2	(d) integrate the county or region with the use of a state health data base and state health
3	planning; or
4	(e) evaluate progress in implementing the public health improvement plan, the effect of the plan
5	on health policy, and the use of public health resources.
6	(3) The department shall require that each county, individual, or organization receiving a grant
7	provide the department with a detailed report, at the time and in the form determined by the department,
8	concerning the use of the grant money awarded to the county, individual, or organization.
9	
10	NEW SECTION. Section 7. Appropriation. (1) The following amounts are appropriated from the
11	general fund to the Montana public health improvement task force established by [section 4] for the
12	purpose of preparing the public health improvement plan:
13	Fiscal year 1996 \$109,910
14	Fiscal year 1997 109,910
15	(2) The following amounts are appropriated from the general fund to the department of health and
16	environmental sciences for the purpose of the public health improvement demonstration project grant
17	program established by [section 6]:
18	Fiscal year 1996 \$30,000
19	Fiscal year 1997 30,000
20	· ·
21	NEW SECTION. Section 8. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.
22	
23	NEW SECTION. Section 9. Termination. [This act] terminates September 30, 1996.
24	-FND-

# STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

# Fiscal Note for HB0542, as introduced

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act creating the Montana Public Health Improvement Task Force; providing for the appointment and duties of the task force; requiring a public health improvement plan; authorizing the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (DHES) to award grants for public health improvement demonstration projects; and appropriating money.

# **ASSUMPTIONS:**

- 1. The Executive Budget present law base serves as the starting point from which to calculate any fiscal impact due to this proposed legislation.
- If HB542 passes the general fund appropriations included in the bill will be adopted. The appropriations are \$109,910 each year for funding the Montana Public Health Task Force, and \$30,000 each year for funding the public health improvement demonstration project grant program.
- 3. All work required beyond the activities for which appropriations are included in the bill are already responsibilities of DHES as funded in the Executive Budget.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Expenditures:		
	FY96	FY97
	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Net Impact to the General Fund E	Balance:	
General Fund (Cost) (01)	(139,910)	(139,910)

DAVE LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR Office of Budget and Program Planning

BILL TASH, PRIMARY SPONSOR

Fiscal Note for HB0542, as introduced

# APPROVED BY SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

1	1 HOUSE BILL NO. 542
2	INTRODUCED BY Wish Water
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE MONTANA PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT
5	TASK FORCE; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; REQUIRING A
6	PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN; AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
7	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES TO AWARD GRANTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT
8	DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS; APPROPRIATING MONEY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE
9	DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."
10	
11	WHEREAS, core public health functions are vital to protecting the health of Montanans and to
12	reducing health care costs by preventing disease, injury, disability, and premature death; and
13	WHEREAS, core public health functions are distinct from medical care, and if neglected, the health
14	and economy of the state will suffer; and
15	WHEREAS, proved public health services are the most inexpensive, effective measures by which
16	to protect Montanans' health; and
17	WHEREAS, Montana's local public health systems are not adequate to protect the public from
18	preventable public health threats, yet resources are limited.
19	THEREFORE, the Montana Public Health Improvement Act is enacted to strengthen the ability to
20	prevent health problems and to focus public health resources on the public health threats determined to be
21	priorities in communities and the state.
22	
23	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
24	
25	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 6] may be cited as the "Montana
26	Public Health Improvement Act".
27	
28	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Legislative findings and purpose. (1) The legislature finds that a
29	strong public health system helps control public health care costs through the prevention of disease and
30	premature death. The legislature also finds that many local public health systems in Montana do not have

- 1 -



HB542 SECOND READING sufficient capacity in core functions, such as prevention of communicable and chronic diseases, provision of public health nursing services, protection of environmental health, and promotion of healthy behaviors to provide adequate protection to Montanans from public health threats.

(2) The legislature declares that the purpose of the Montana Public Health Improvement Act is to assist local governments and community organizations to determine the most serious threats to public health, to determine a method to address those threats, and to provide local and state decisionmakers with a framework for prioritizing a public response to those threats.

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- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Section 3. Definitions.** Unless a contrary intent is indicated, the following definitions apply in [sections 1 through 6]:
- 11 (1) "Core functions" means the ability of a public health department to:
- 12 (a) prevent epidemics;
- 13 (b) promote healthy behaviors;
- 14 (c) provide public health nursing services;
- 15 (d) provide environmental health protection;
- 16 (e) monitor health status;
- 17 (f) develop health-based policies;
- 18 (g) mobilize communities;
- 19 (h) respond to disasters; and
- 20 (i) provide health services to high-risk persons who are hard to reach.
- 21 (2) "Department" means the department of health and environmental sciences provided for in 22 2-15-2101.
- 23 (3) "Health care provider" means an individual licensed by the state to provide health care within 24 the scope of the individual's license.
- 25 (4) "Local board of health" or "local board" means a local board as defined in 50-2-101.
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- 27 (6) "Public health improvement plan" or "plan" means the public health improvement plan required 28 by (section 5).
- 29 (7) "Rural county" means a county with a population density of six or fewer people per square 30 mile.



54th Legislature

1	(8) "Task force" means the Montana public health improvement task force created in [section 4]
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3	NEW SECTION. Section 4. Montana public health improvement task force. (1) There is a Montana
4	public health improvement task force consisting of the following members:
5	(a) two representatives of local boards of health or health departments, from one of the state's four
6	largest municipalities, with expertise in each of the following subject areas:
7	(i) one representative, maternal and child health or health promotion; and
8	(ii) one representative, environmental health;
9	(b) two county health officers or county health department directors from the counties containing
10	the state's four largest municipalities;
11	(c) two representatives of local boards of health or health departments from the state's rural
12	counties with populations over 5,000 residents;
13	(d) one public health representative from a county with fewer than 5,000 residents;
14	(e) one representative of the Indian health service or Montana Indian tribes;
15	(f) one member of the Montana house of representatives;
16	(g) one member of the Montana senate;
17	(h) one health care provider;
18	(i) one citizen concerned with public health;
19	(j) one member of the Montana health care authority; and
20	(k) the director and one member of the staff of the department.
21	(2) Members of the task force must be appointed by the governor by June 30, 1995.
22	(3) The director of the department shall serve as presiding officer of the task force.
23	(4) Members of the task force serve without compensation but must be reimbursed for their
24	expenses.
25	(5) The task force is attached to the department for administrative purposes only as provided in
26	2-15-121. The department shall provide staff assistance to the task force.
27	
28	NEW SECTION. Section 5. Task force to prepare public health improvement plan. (1) The task
29	force shall prepare a public health improvement plan that addresses the following subjects:



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(a) the ability or capacity of local boards to provide core functions and the standards by which that

capacity must be measured, including:

_	(b) the state of the books of t
2	(i) a determination of public health strengths and weaknesses in communities and the state;
3	(ii) a determination of which municipalities do not meet the capacity standards established by the
4	task force;
5	(iii) an analysis of the costs and benefits of adoption of capacity standards; and
6	(iv) a plan for municipalities in order to achieve the capacity standards established by the task force;
7	(b) strategies for improving state and local public health programs, including:
8	(i) a determination of the needs of local boards, municipalities, and state agencies in order to
9	achieve the capacity standards established by the task force in the most critical core functions;
10	(ii) an examination of a strategy, such as establishment of geographic regions, for cost-effective
11	administration and delivery of public health services;
12	(iii) identification of methods to network local public health services to each other and to state
13	public health services; and
14	(iv) a review of laws, rules, ordinances, and policies pertaining to public health;
15	(c) consideration of population-based public health activities, including:
16	(i) assessment of health data;
17	(ii) surveillance of chronic and infectious diseases;
18	(iii) rapid response to outbreaks of communicable diseases;
19	(iv) efforts to prevent and control communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis and acquired
20	immunodeficiency syndrome;
21	(v) health education to promote healthy behaviors and to reduce the prevalence of chronic
22	diseases, such as those linked to the use of tobacco, including poor nutrition, and physical activity,
23	cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes;
24	(vi) access to primary care in coordination with community-based health care organizations;
25	(vii) programs to ensure that children are born as healthy as possible and that they can receive
26	immunizations and adequate nutrition;
27	(viii) efforts to prevent injury;
28	(ix) programs to ensure the safety of drinking water and food supplies;
29	(x) control of poisons;
30	(xi) services for treatment of trauma; and



1	(xii) other activities that have the potential to improve the health of the population or special
2	populations and to reduce the need for or costs of health services;
3	(d) a plan for the funding of other parts of the plan, including:
4	(i) a recommended level for funding public health services, to be expressed in a percentage of total
5	health services expenditures in the state or in a set per capita amount;
6	(ii) methods to ensure that proposed funding does not supplant existing funding; and
7	(iii) identification of federal and private funding opportunities;
8	(e) identification of methods of integrating health status data into the health planning process and
9	into local and regional planning;
10	(f) recommendations for coordinating public health improvements with health care reform efforts
11	and for continuance of the task force beyond 1996; and
12	(g) a plan for implementing the recommendations contained in the plan in the years 1997 through
13	1999.
14	(2) The task force shall send a copy of the public health improvement plan to the governor and to
15	the legislature on or before September 30, 1996.
16	(3) Local boards, municipalities, and state agencies shall cooperate with the task force in the
17	preparation of the plan required by this section.
18	
19	NEW SECTION. Section 6. Department to request proposals for public health improvement
20	demonstration projects grants to counties or regions. (1) The department shall advertise for proposals
21	to conduct public health improvement demonstration projects. Proposals may be submitted by counties
22	or by individuals or community organizations within the health care planning regions established by
23	50-4-401. The department shall award at least one demonstration project grant within each region
24	established by 50-4-401, unless the demonstration project proposals submitted from a region fail, in the
25	judgment of the department, to meet the requirements of subsection (2). If a grant is not awarded within

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1	(c) prepare a community-based action plan to identify and address public health priorities;
2	(d) integrate the county or region with the use of a state health data base and state health
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11	general fund to the Montana public health improvement task force established by [section 4] for the
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13	Fiscal year 1996 \$109,910
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16	environmental sciences for the purpose of the public health improvement demonstration project grant
17	program established by [section 6]:
18	Fiscal year 1996 \$30,000
19	Fiscal year 1997 30,000
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21	NEW SECTION. Section & Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.
22	
23	NEW SECTION. Section 9. Termination. [This act] terminates September 30, 1996.
24	-END-

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# REREFERRED AND APPROVED BY COM ON APPROPRIATIONS

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2	INTRODUCED BY TASH, WATERMAN
3	
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premature death. The legislature also finds that many local public health systems in Montana do not have

54th Legislature HB0542.02

sufficient capacity in core functions, such as prevention of communicable and chronic diseases, provision of public health nursing services, protection of environmental health, and promotion of healthy behaviors to provide adequate protection to Montanans from public health threats.

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<b>1</b> 5	(f) one member of the Montana house of representatives;
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19	(j) one member of the Montana health care authority; and
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21	(2) Members of the task force must be appointed by the governor by June 30, 1995.
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9	achieve the capacity standards established by the task force in the most critical core functions;					
10	(ii) an examination of a strategy, such as establishment of geographic regions, for cost-effective					
11	administration and delivery of public health services;					
12	(iii) identification of methods to network local public health services to each other and to state					
13	public health services; and					
14	(iv) a review of laws, rules, ordinances, and policies pertaining to public health;					
15	(c) consideration of population-based public health activities, including:					
16	(i) assessment of health data;					
17	(ii) surveillance of chronic and infectious diseases;					
18	(iii) rapid response to outbreaks of communicable diseases;					
19	(iv) efforts to prevent and control communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis and acquired					
20	immunodeficiency syndrome;					
21	(v) health education to promote healthy behaviors and to reduce the prevalence of chronic					
22	diseases, such as those linked to the use of tobacco, including poor nutrition, and physical activity,					
23	cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes;					
24	(vi) access to primary care in coordination with community-based health care organizations;					
25	(vii) programs to ensure that children are born as healthy as possible and that they can receive					
26	immunizations and adequate nutrition;					
27	(viii) efforts to prevent injury;					
28	(ix) programs to ensure the safety of drinking water and food supplies;					
29	(x) control of poisons;					
30	(xi) services for treatment of trauma; and					



54th Legislature

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(xii) other activities that have the potential to improve the health of the population or special populations and to reduce the need for or costs of health services;

- (d) a plan for the funding of other parts of the plan, including:
- 4 (i) a recommended level for funding public health services, to be expressed in a percentage of total health services expenditures in the state or in a set per capita amount;
  - (ii) methods to ensure that proposed funding does not supplant existing funding; and
  - (iii) identification of federal and private funding opportunities;
    - (e) identification of methods of integrating health status data into the health planning process and into local and regional planning;
    - (f) recommendations for coordinating public health improvements with health care reform efforts and for continuance of the task force beyond 1996; and
    - (g) a plan for implementing the recommendations contained in the plan in the years 1997 through 1999.
    - (2) The task force shall send a copy of the public health improvement plan to the governor and to the legislature on or before September 30, 1996.
    - (3) Local boards, municipalities, and state agencies shall cooperate with the task force in the preparation of the plan required by this section.

NEW SECTION. Section 6. Department to request proposals for public health improvement demonstration projects -- grants to counties or regions. (1) The department shall advertise for proposals to conduct public health improvement demonstration projects. Proposals may be submitted by counties or by individuals or community organizations within the health care planning regions established by 50-4-401. The department shall award at least one demonstration project grant within each region established by 50-4-401, unless the demonstration project proposals submitted from a region fail, in the judgment of the department, to meet the requirements of subsection (2). If a grant is not awarded within

(2) The department shall award a demonstration project grant for a project that will best assist a county or region to:

a region, the department shall use the project grant money not awarded for grants within other regions.

- (a) mobilize a local or regional coalition to conduct health monitoring and planning;
- (b) prepare a local health status profile;



- 5 -

1	(c) prepare a community-based action plan to identify and address public health priorities;							
2	(d) integrate the county or region with the use of a state health data base and state health							
3	planning; or							
4	(e) evaluate progress in implementing the public health improvement plan, the effect of the plan							
5	on health policy, and the use of public health resources.							
6	(3) The department shall require that each county, individual, or organization receiving a gra							
7	provide the department with a detailed report, at the time and in the form determined by the departmen							
8	concerning the use of the grant money awarded to the county, individual, or organization.							
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10	NEW SECTION. Section 7. Appropriation. (1) The following amounts are appropriated from the							
11	general fund to the Montana public health improvement task force established by [section 4] for the							
12	purpose of preparing the public health improvement plan:							
13	Fiscal year 1996 \$109,910							
14	Fiscal year 1997 109,910							
15	(2) The following amounts are appropriated from the general fund to the department of health and							
16	environmental-sciences for the purpose of the public health improvement demonstration project gran							
17	program established by [section 6]:							
18	Fiscal year 1996 \$30,000							
19	Fiscal year 1997 30,000							
20								
21	NEW SECTION. Section 7. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.							
22								
23	NEW SECTION. Section 8. Termination. [This act] terminates September 30, 1996.							
24	-END-							



1	HOUSE BILL NO. 542							
2	INTRODUCED BY TASH, WATERMAN							
3								
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE MONTANA PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT							
5	TASK FORCE; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; REQUIRING A							
6	PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN; AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND							
7	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES TO AWARD GRANTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT							
8	DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS; APPROPRIATING MONEY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE							
9	DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."							
10								
11	WHEREAS, core public health functions are vital to protecting the health of Montanans and to							
12	reducing health care costs by preventing disease, injury, disability, and premature death; and							
13	WHEREAS, core public health functions are distinct from medical care, and if neglected, the health							
14	and economy of the state will suffer; and							
15	WHEREAS, proved public health services are the most inexpensive, effective measures by which							
16	to protect Montanans' health; and							
17	WHEREAS, Montana's local public health systems are not adequate to protect the public from							
18	preventable public health threats, yet resources are limited.							
19	THEREFORE, the Montana Public Health Improvement Act is enacted to strengthen the ability to							
20	prevent health problems and to focus public health resources on the public health threats determined to be							
21	priorities in communities and the state.							
22								

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

THERE ARE NO CHANGES IN THIS BILL AND IT WILL NOT BE REPRINTED. PLEASE REFER TO SECOND READING—SECOND PRINTING—FOR COMPLETE TEXT.



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20	prevent health problems and to focus public health resources on the public health threats determined to be						
21	priorities in communities and the state.						
22							
23	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:						
24							
25	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 6] may be cited as the "Montana						
26	Public Health Improvement Act".						
27							
28	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Legislative findings and purpose. (1) The legislature finds that a						
29	strong public health system helps control public health care costs through the prevention of disease and						
30	premature death. The legislature also finds that many local public health systems in Montana do not have						

sufficient capacity in core functions, such as prevention of communicable and chronic diseases, provision
of public health nursing services, protection of environmental health, and promotion of healthy behaviors
to provide adequate protection to Montanans from public health threats.

(2) The legislature declares that the purpose of the Montana Public Health Improvement Act is to assist local governments and community organizations to determine the most serious threats to public health, to determine a method to address those threats, and to provide local and state decisionmakers with a framework for prioritizing a public response to those threats.

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- <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Section 3. Definitions.** Unless a contrary intent is indicated, the following definitions apply in [sections 1 through 6]:
- (1) "Core functions" means the ability of a public health department to:
- 12 (a) prevent epidemics;
- 13 (b) promote healthy behaviors;
- 14 (c) provide public health nursing services;
- 15 (d) provide environmental health protection;
- (e) monitor health status;
- 17 (f) develop health-based policies;
- 18 (g) mobilize communities;
- 19 (h) respond to disasters; and
- (i) provide health services to high-risk persons who are hard to reach.
- 21 (2) "Department" means the department of health and environmental sciences provided for in 22 2-15-2101.
- (3) "Health care provider" means an individual licensed by the state to provide health care within
   the scope of the individual's license.
- 25 (4) "Local board of health" or "local board" means a local board as defined in 50-2-101.
- 26 (5) "Municipality" means a city or town.
- 27 (6) "Public health improvement plan" or "plan" means the public health improvement plan required by [section 5].
- 29 (7) "Rural county" means a county with a population density of six or fewer people per square 30 mile.



1	(8) "Task force" means the Montana public health improvement task force created in [section 4].
2	
3	NEW SECTION. Section 4. Montana public health improvement task force. (1) There is a Montana
4	public health improvement task force consisting of the following members:
5	(a) two representatives of local boards of health or health departments, from one of the state's four
6	largest municipalities, with expertise in each of the following subject areas:
7	(i) one representative, maternal and child health or health promotion; and
8	(ii) one representative, environmental health;
9	(b) two county health officers or county health department directors from the counties containing
10	the state's four largest municipalities;
11	(c) two representatives of local boards of health or health departments from the state's rural
12	counties with populations over 5,000 residents;
13	(d) one public health representative from a county with fewer than 5,000 residents;
14	(e) one representative of the Indian health service or Montana Indian tribes;
15	(f) one member of the Montana house of representatives;
16	(g) one member of the Montana senate;
17	(h) one health care provider;
18	(i) one citizen concerned with public health;
19	(j) one member of the Montana health care authority; and
20	(k) the director and one member of the staff of the department.
21	(2) Members of the task force must be appointed by the governor by June 30, 1995.
22	(3) The director of the department shall serve as presiding officer of the task force.
23	(4) Members of the task force serve without compensation but must be reimbursed for their
24	expenses.
25	(5) The task force is attached to the department for administrative purposes only as provided in
26	2-15-121. The department shall provide staff assistance to the task force.
27	
28	NEW SECTION. Section 5. Task force to prepare public health improvement plan. (1) The task
29	force shall prepare a public health improvement plan that addresses the following subjects:
30	(a) the ability or capacity of local boards to provide core functions and the standards by which that



1	capacity must be measured, including:
2	(i) a determination of public health strengths and weaknesses in communities and the state;
3	(ii) a determination of which municipalities do not meet the capacity standards established by the
4	task force;
5	(iii) an analysis of the costs and benefits of adoption of capacity standards; and
6	(iv) a plan for municipalities in order to achieve the capacity standards established by the task force;
7	(b) strategies for improving state and local public health programs, including:
8	(i) a determination of the needs of local boards, municipalities, and state agencies in order to
9	achieve the capacity standards established by the task force in the most critical core functions;
10	(ii) an examination of a strategy, such as establishment of geographic regions, for cost-effective
11	administration and delivery of public health services;
12	(iii) identification of methods to network local public health services to each other and to state
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14	(iv) a review of laws, rules, ordinances, and policies pertaining to public health;
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26	immunizations and adequate nutrition;
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29	(x) control of poisons;
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