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SENATE BILL NO. 202

INTRODUCED BY

Jerguson Cobb *Thomas & Kelly Berganz*
Edw. Frank

BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REMOVING THE TERMINATION OF THE FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE HOTLINE; REPEALING SECTION 6, CHAPTER 20, SPECIAL LAWS OF NOVEMBER 1993; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Repealer. Section 6, Chapter 20, Special Laws of November 1993, is repealed.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

-END-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Note for SB0202, as introduced

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act removing the termination of the fraud, waste, and abuse hotline; and repealing Section 6, Chapter 20, Special Laws of November 1993.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. As of 1/18/95, 467 calls have been received on the hotline including 149 allegations of fraud, theft or other illegal activities, 93 suggestions for improvement in efficiency of governmental operations, 36 instances where calls concerned public safety issues, and 189 calls about other governmental operations. Based on the six months of experience, the operating expense estimate includes 30 calls per week averaging six minutes per call.
2. The Office of the Legislative Auditor would continue to provide a 24-hour toll-free number (1-800) requiring a dedicated phone line for all incoming calls.
3. The Office of the Legislative Auditor would replace its existing hotline phone with equipment to accommodate calls from individuals using a Telephone Device for the Deaf.
4. The Office of the Legislative Auditor would continue to maintain the answering machine for after-hours service.
5. The Office of the Legislative Auditor would continue to assign personnel to answer the phone from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., periodically review the answering machine tape, and screen the calls.
6. There would be no increase in total FTE for the Office of the Legislative Auditor. However, based on six months of experience, the office estimates that staff time equaling 0.50 FTE is necessary to monitor calls, determine resolution of each call, follow up on certain calls, and administer the hotline.
7. Operating expenses, which include monthly telephone charges and advertising costs, are based on six months of experience and use rates established by the Department of Administration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Expenditures:

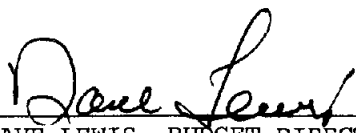
	<u>FY96</u>	<u>FY97</u>
Office of the Legislative Auditor:	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	5,266	5,266
Equipment	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	5,566	5,266

Funding:

General Fund (01)	5,566	5,266
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LONG-RANGE EFFECTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

The costs for continued operation of the fraud hotline will vary depending on (1) the extent of office involvement in follow up on calls received, which is affected by the type/significance of the calls; and (2) the extent of advertisement of the hotline.

 1-25-95
 DAVE LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE
 Office of Budget and Program Planning

 1-25-95
 GREG JERGESON, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE

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Jerguson Cobb *Franklin Bergman*
Franklin Bergman

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2 INTRODUCED BY JERGESON, COBB, L. NELSON, BERGSAGEL, KEATING, PAVLOVICH, FRANKLIN
3 BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

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