

HOUSE BILL NO. 936

INTRODUCED BY J. GILLETTE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT; REQUIRING THAT A PORTION OF THE HOSPITAL UTILIZATION FEE BE USED FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY INCENTIVE PAYMENTS; REQUIRING THAT A PORTION OF THE HOSPITAL UTILIZATION FEE BE USED FOR PAYMENTS TO INDEPENDENT NONAFFILIATED CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS; ALLOWING LOAN REPAYMENT AND FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL BEDS AT THE MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL TO BE ELIGIBLE USES OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS FUND ON A ONE-TIME BASIS; ESTABLISHING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; AMENDING ~~SECTIONS~~ SECTION 50-1-119 ~~AND 53-6-149~~, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 50-1-119, MCA, is amended to read:

**"50-1-119. Behavioral health system for future generations fund.** (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102 to be known as the behavioral health system for future generations fund.

(2) There must be deposited in the account money received from legislative general fund transfers.

(3) Eligible uses of the fund include:

(a) medicaid and CHIP matching funds for payments made to behavioral health settings;

(b) medicaid and CHIP matching funds for payments made to intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities;

(c) statewide community-based investments to stabilize behavioral health and developmental disabilities service providers and delivery, increase and strengthen the behavioral health and developmental disabilities workforce, increase service capacity to meet identified behavioral health and developmental disabilities services demands, and increase opportunities for Montanans to receive integrated physical and

NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Montana state hospital reporting.** (1) Starting July 1, 2025, and each month thereafter, the department of public health and human services shall submit a written report on the Montana state hospital. The report must outline the department's hiring efforts and following data:

- (a) the number of applications received;
- (b) the number of qualified applicants;
- (c) the number of interviews conducted; and
- (d) the number of new employees hired.

(2) The monthly reports must be submitted to the legislative finance committee, the interim budget committee section B, and the interim budget committee section F.

~~Section 5. Section 53-6-149, MCA, is amended to read:~~

~~"53-6-149. State special revenue fund account -- administration. (1) There is a hospital medicaid reimbursement account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102.~~

~~(2) All money collected under 15-66-102[, except for the money deposited pursuant to 15-66-102(3)(b) into the Montana HELP Act special revenue account provided for in 53-6-1315,] must be deposited in the account.~~

~~(3) (a) Money in the account must be used by the department of public health and human services to provide funding [no later than May 5 of each year] for increases in medicaid payments to hospitals and for the costs of collection of the fee and other administrative activities associated with the implementation of increases in the medicaid payments to hospitals.~~

~~(b) The department shall use 2% of the total revenue generated by the inpatient hospital utilization fee in 15-66-102 as a match:~~

~~(i) for payments to independent nonaffiliated hospitals for the purposes of maintaining access and quality in the most rural and frontier areas in Montana; and~~

~~(ii) for incentive payments to hospitals that demonstrate exceptional patient-centered and efficiency outcomes. The department may retain a portion of the funds for implementation of the program in this subsection (3)(b)(ii). (Bracketed language terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency--sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)"~~