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

15 **Section 1.** Section 20-9-516, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"20-9-516. School facility and technology account.** (1) There is a school facility and technology
17 account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102. The purpose of the account is to provide,
18 contingent on appropriation from the legislature, funding for the following in priority order:

19 (a) school technology purposes, including but not limited to purposes as provided in 20-9-534; and
20 (b) state debt service assistance as provided in 20-9-371

21 (2) There must be deposited in the account:

22 (a) an amount of money equal to the income attributable to the difference between the average
23 sale value of 18 million board feet and the total income produced from the annual timber harvest on common
24 school trust lands during the fiscal year; and

25 (b) the income received from certain lands and riverbeds as provided in 17-3-1003(5).

26 (3) If in any fiscal year the amount of revenue in the school facility and technology account is
27 sufficient to fund debt service assistance without a proration reduction pursuant to 20-9-346(2)(b) and if in

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1 20-9-525; and

2 (b)(d) contingent on appropriation from the legislature, state debt service assistance as provided in
3 20-9-371.

4 (2) There must be deposited in the account:

5 (a) an amount of money equal to the income attributable to the difference between the average
6 sale value of 18 million board feet and the total income produced from the annual timber harvest on common
7 school trust lands during the fiscal year; and

8 (b) the income received from certain lands and riverbeds as provided in 17-3-1003(5);

9 (c) earnings from the school facilities fund within the coal severance tax trust fund as provided in
10 17-5-703; and

11 (d) if applicable, excess interest and income revenue as provided in 20-9-622.

12 (3) (a) The amount of \$1 million a year is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, from
13 the school facility and technology account established in this section for grants for school technology purposes.

14 (b) By the last working day in August, the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate a
15 portion of the \$1 million for school technology purposes to each district based on the ratio that each district's
16 BASE budget bears to the statewide BASE budget amount for all school districts for the purposes of 20-9-533.

17 (3) If in any fiscal year the amount of revenue in the school facility and technology account is
18 sufficient to fund debt service assistance without a proration reduction pursuant to 20-9-346 (2)(b) and if in that
19 same fiscal year the amount of revenue available in the school major maintenance aid account established in
20 20-9-525 will result in a proration reduction in school major maintenance aid pursuant to 20-9-525 (5) for that
21 fiscal year, the state treasurer shall transfer any excess funds in the school facility and technology account to
22 the school major maintenance aid account not to exceed the amount required to avoid a proration reduction."

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24 **COORDINATION SECTION. Section 10. Coordination instruction.** If both House Bill No. 251 and
25 [this act] are passed and approved, then [section 2(6)(f) of House Bill No. 251], amending 20-6-805, must be
26 replaced with:

27 "(f) based on the information provided by the office of public instruction in subsection (5)(b), limit

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1 the estimated total additional state cost attributable to the basic entitlement in the third year of operations for
2 public charter schools newly approved by the board to the amount specified by the legislature in the
3 appropriations act for the purposes of this program; and"

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5 **COORDINATION SECTION.** **Section 11. Coordination instruction.** If House Bill No. 251, House Bill
6 No. 2, and [this act] are all passed and approved, then the following language must be added to House Bill No.
7 2 following the Office of Public Instruction appropriations:

8 "Pursuant to 20-6-805, in approving applications for public charter schools, the Board of Public
9 Education shall ensure that the estimated total additional state cost attributable to the basic entitlement in the
10 third year of operations for public charter schools newly approved by the board does not exceed \$1 million for
11 newly approved public charter schools first eligible to open in school fiscal year 2027 and \$1 million for newly
12 approved public charter schools first eligible to open in school fiscal year 2028."

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14 **NEW SECTION.** **Section 12. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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16 **NEW SECTION.** **Section 13. Termination.** [Sections 5 and 6] terminate December 31, 2026.

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