

**Amendment - 1st Reading/2nd House-blue - Requested by: Curtis Schomer - (S) Natural Resources**

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Laura Sankey Keip,

HB0931.001.001

HOUSE BILL NO. 931

INTRODUCED BY C. SCHOMER, L. BREWSTER, M. VINTON

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT A COMMERCIAL PURPOSE FOR THE COMMERCIAL LEASING OF STATE TRUST LAND MAY INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT OF SINGLE-FAMILY OR MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER A MASTER LEASE FOR THE PURPOSES OF ATTAINABLE WORKFORCE HOUSING; REVISING DEFINITIONS; AND AMENDING SECTION 77-1-902, MCA."

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

**Section 1.** Section 77-1-902, MCA, is amended to read:

**"77-1-902. Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Attainable workforce housing" has the same meaning as provided in 90-6-143 means housing of a monthly cost for a homeowner or a renter that, at the time of initial occupancy, equals no more than 35% of 1/12 of the annual income of a family earning between 60% and 140% of the annual median household income for the county in which the homeowner or renter resides or the state, whichever is less.

(b) Housing costs for a homeowner include a mortgage payment, property taxes, and insurance.

(c) Housing costs for a renter include monthly rent and utilities paid by the renter.

(d) A master lessee may not increase the monthly rent more than once per calendar year. If the monthly rent is increased, the increase may not exceed the lesser of:

(i) 35% of 1/12 of the increase from the prior year in the annual median household income for the county in which the renter resides;

(ii) 35% of 1/12 of the increase from the prior year in the annual median household income for the state; or

(iii) 10% of the current-year monthly rent.

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1           ~~(2)~~ "Cancellation" means the cessation of a lessee's possessory rights and privileges under a  
2 lease due to the lessee's breach of some term of the lease, applicable statutes, or applicable administrative  
3 rules.

4           ~~(2)(3)~~ "Commercial lease" means a contract to use state trust land for a commercial purpose.

5           ~~(3)(4)~~ (a) "Commercial purpose" means an industrial enterprise, retail sales outlet, business and  
6 professional office building, warehouse, motel, hotel, hospitality enterprise, commercial or concentrated  
7 recreational use, single-family or multifamily residential development authorized under a lease with a master  
8 lessee, including a lease executed with a nonprofit corporation for the purposes of developing attainable  
9 workforce housing, and other similar business.

10           (b) The term does not include the following uses:

11           (i) agriculture;

12           (ii) grazing;

13           (iii) exploration or development of oil and gas, minerals, and resources from geothermal, wind, or  
14 solar;

15           (iv) single-family residences, home sites, and cabin sites licensed or leased pursuant to 77-1-208;  
16 and

17           (v) utility rights-of-way.

18           ~~(4)(5)~~ "Land value" is the monetary value of the land determined by an appraisal by a certified  
19 general appraiser or a department staff appraiser or by a limited valuation.

20           ~~(5)(6)~~ "Limited valuation" means estimating the land value of commercial lease land by analyzing  
21 comparable land valuations conducted within 2 years of the lease commencement date as provided by real  
22 estate appraisers, local tax assessors, local realtors, an evaluation of local market rents, or a combination of  
23 those methods.

24           ~~(6)(7)~~ "Termination" means the automatic completion or ending of the term of a contract according to  
25 its provisions. Upon termination, the lessee ceases to have any possessory rights or privileges under a lease."

26           - END -