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HOUSE BILL NO. 936

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INTRODUCED BY J. GILLETTE

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL  
5 APPROPRIATIONS ACT; REQUIRING THAT A PORTION OF THE HOSPITAL UTILIZATION FEE BE USED  
6 FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY INCENTIVE PAYMENTS; REQUIRING THAT A PORTION OF  
7 THE HOSPITAL UTILIZATION FEE BE USED FOR PAYMENTS TO INDEPENDENT NONAFFILIATED  
8 CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS; ALLOWING LOAN REPAYMENT AND FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL BEDS  
9 AT THE MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL TO BE ELIGIBLE USES OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM  
10 FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS FUND ON A ONE-TIME BASIS; PROVIDING FOR A STUDY ON THE LONG-  
11 TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF OBJECTIVES IN HB 872; ESTABLISHING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS;  
12 AMENDING SECTIONS SECTION 50-1-119 AND 53-6-149, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE  
13 AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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

16

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

18 **"50-1-119. Behavioral health system for future generations fund.** (1) There is an account in the  
19 state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102 to be known as the behavioral health system for future  
20 generations fund.

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

22 (3) Eligible uses of the fund include:

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

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

26 (c) statewide community-based investments to stabilize behavioral health and developmental  
27 disabilities service providers and delivery, increase and strengthen the behavioral health and developmental  
28 disabilities workforce, increase service capacity to meet identified behavioral health and developmental

# Amendment - 1st Reading/2nd House-blue - Requested by: (S) Finance and Claims

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Julie Johnson,

HB0936.002.002

1      disabilities services demands, and increase opportunities for Montanans to receive integrated physical and  
2      behavioral health care;

3            (d)      acquisition of new or remodeling of existing infrastructure or property to support the  
4      establishment of behavioral health settings and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual  
5      disabilities;

6            (e)      planning, operation, or other contract expenses associated with intermediate care facilities for  
7      individuals with intellectual disabilities;

8            (f)      planning, operation, or other contract expenses associated with behavioral health settings; and

9            (g)      studying and planning of the development of a comprehensive behavioral health system;

10           (h)      offering student loan repayment programs for nurses, licensed practical nurses, and

11      psychiatrists at state health facilities and prioritizing employees at the Montana state hospital for the programs;

12      and

13           (i)      providing additional licensed beds at the Montana state hospital.

14           (4)      (a) Funds in this account may not be used to operate existing state facilities.

15           (b)      Student loan repayments and the addition of licensed beds are not considered operating  
16      expenses for the purposes of this section."

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18      **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Near-term initiatives.** The department of public health and human  
19      services shall continue using its approved funding for behavioral health system for future generations near-term  
20      initiative number one to support community-based court-ordered evaluations and clinical stabilization services  
21      in local detention facilities.

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23      **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Reporting -- comprehensive school and community treatment**  
24      **services to children.** The department of public health and human services shall develop and report patient-  
25      centered health outcome measures and total costs for each program and for each child for comprehensive  
26      school and community treatment services to children. The report shall be provided on a quarterly basis to the  
27      health and human services interim budget committee and the children, families, health, and human services  
28      interim committee.

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2           **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Montana state hospital reporting.** (1) Starting July 1, 2025, and each

3 month thereafter, the department of public health and human services shall submit a written report on the

4 Montana state hospital. The report must outline the department's hiring efforts and following data:

5           (a) the number of applications received;

6           (b) the number of qualified applicants;

7           (c) the number of interviews conducted; and

8           (d) the number of new employees hired.

9           (2) The monthly reports must be submitted to the legislative finance committee, the interim budget

10 committee section B, and the interim budget committee section F.

11

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

13           **"53-6-149. State special revenue fund account -- administration.** (1) There is a hospital medicaid

14 reimbursement account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102.

15           (2) All money collected under 15-66-102 [ , except for the money deposited pursuant to 15-66-102

16 (3)(b) into the Montana HELP Act special revenue account provided for in 53-6-1315,] must be deposited in the  
17 account.

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

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

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

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

1    Ch. 415, L. 2019.)"

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3            **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Long-term sustainability of HB 872 study -- committee.** (1) During  
4 the interim following the 69th legislative session, there is a House Bill No. 872 long-term sustainability  
5 committee to analyze and propose mechanisms to provide sustainable funding for long-term objectives of  
6 House Bill No. 872 to the executive branch and to the legislative finance committee in preparation for the 70th  
7 legislative session.

8            (2) The committee consists of the following members:

9            (a) the chair of the health and human services appropriations joint subcommittee;  
10           (b) two members of the health and human services appropriations joint subcommittee, with one  
11 appointed by the speaker of the house and one appointed by the minority leader of the house in consultation  
12 with the chair of the health and human services appropriations joint subcommittee;  
13           (c) the director of the department of public health and human services, or the director's designee;  
14           (d) the medicaid bureau chief; and  
15           (e) the budget director or the director's designee.

16           (3) The department of public health and human services shall staff the committee and pay for the  
17 operational costs of the committee.

18           (4) The office of budget and program planning and the legislative fiscal division shall provide  
19 research and analysis at the request of the committee.

20           (5) The committee shall elect a presiding officer from one of the members who is a legislator and  
21 elect a vice presiding officer.

22           (6) Starting June 1, 2025, the committee shall meet every 2 months and may meet remotely.

23           (7) The committee shall reserve time at each committee meeting for public comment. Public  
24 participation is encouraged.

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26           **COORDINATION SECTION. Section 6. Coordination instruction.** The appropriation in House Bill  
27 No. 2 for certified community behavioral health centers is contingent on the passage and approval of House Bill  
28 No. 574. If House Bill No. 574 is not passed and approved, the appropriation in House Bill No. 2 is void.

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2        **NEW SECTION. Section 7. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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4        **NEW SECTION. Section 8. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 2027.

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