1	HOUSE BILL NO. 579		
2	INTRODUCED BY G. HERTZ		
3			
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PERMITTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO COLLECT A 40 MILL		
5	LEVY FOR LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS; ESTABLISHING A METHOD OF AND FORMULA FOR		
6	DISTRIBUTION OF LEVY PROCEEDS; REQUIRING PROCEEDS BE DEPOSITED INTO A LOCAL		
7	GOVERNMENT'S INFRASTRUCTURE FUND; PROVIDING THAT STATE EQUALIZATION AID BE PAID FRO		
8	THE STATE GENERAL FUND; PROVIDING THAT THE PROPOSED ACT BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIE		
9	ELECTORS OF MONTANA; AMENDING MCA SECTIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A		
10	APPLICABILITY DATE."		
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12	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:		
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14	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Local infrastructure levy. (1) The governing body of a county may each		
15	year levy and collect a tax of 40 mills on the taxable property of the county, exclusive of taxable property within		
16	a municipality, for certain infrastructure costs, as provided in [section 2(3)].		
17	(2) The governing body of a municipality may each year levy and collect a tax of 40 mills on the taxable		
18	property within the municipality for certain infrastructure costs, as provided in [section 2(3)].		
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20	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Distribution of levy proceeds for local infrastructure. (1) Between the		
21	1st and 20th days of each month, the county treasurer shall disburse proceeds from the levy collected pursuant		
22	to [section 1] during the previous month to an incorporated city or town, the portion of the funds generated by the		
23	levy on the taxable value of all taxable property inside the limits of each respective incorporated city or town.		
24	(2) Funds received pursuant to [section 1] or this section must be deposited into an infrastructure fund		
25	established by the governing body and used exclusively for infrastructure projects located within the borders of		
26	the taxing jurisdiction.		
27	(3) Infrastructure projects that may be funded by levy proceeds from [section 1] are limited to the		
28	following:		
29	(a) drinking water systems;		
30	(b) wastewater treatment systems;		

- 1 (c) sanitary sewer or storm sewer systems;
- 2 (d) solid waste disposal and separation systems, including site acquisition, preparation, and monitoring;
- (e) local roads;
- 4 (f) bridges; or
- 5 (g) repairs of buildings.

- **Section 3.** Section 7-6-2527, MCA, is amended to read:
- 8 "7-6-2527. Taxation -- public and governmental purposes. A county may impose a property tax levy
  9 for any public or governmental purpose not specifically prohibited by law. Public and governmental purposes
  10 include but are not limited to:
- 11 (1) district court purposes as provided in 7-6-2511;
- 12 (2) county-owned or county-operated health care facility purposes as provided in 7-6-2512;
- (3) county law enforcement services and maintenance of county detention center purposes as provided
   in 7-6-2513 and search and rescue units as provided in 7-32-235;
- (4) multijurisdictional service purposes as provided in 7-11-1022;
- 16 (5) transportation services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities as provided in 7-14-111;
- 17 (6) support for a port authority as provided in 7-14-1132;
- 18 (7) county road, bridge, and ferry purposes as provided in 7-14-2101, 7-14-2501, 7-14-2502, 7-14-2503,
- 19 7-14-2801, and 7-14-2807;
- 20 (8) recreational, educational, and other activities of the elderly as provided in 7-16-101;
- 21 (9) purposes of county fair activities, parks, cultural facilities, and any county-owned civic center, youth 22 center, recreation center, or recreational complex as provided in 7-16-2102 and 7-16-2109;
- 23 (10) programs for the operation of licensed day-care centers and homes as provided in 7-16-2108 and 7-16-4114;
- 25 (11) support for a museum, facility for the arts and the humanities, collection of exhibits, or a museum 26 district created under provisions of Title 7, chapter 11, part 10, or former Title 7, chapter 16, part 22;
- 27 (12) extension work in agriculture and home economics as provided in 7-21-3203;
- 28 (13) weed control and management purposes as provided in 7-22-2142;
- 29 (14) insect control programs as provided in 7-22-2306;
- 30 (15) fire control as provided in 7-33-2209;



- 1 (16) ambulance service as provided in 7-34-102;
- 2 (17) public health purposes as provided in 50-2-111 and 50-2-114;
- 3 (18) public assistance purposes as provided in 53-3-115;
- 4 (19) indigent assistance purposes as provided in 53-3-116;
- 5 (20) developmental disabilities facilities as provided in 53-20-208;
- 6 (21) mental health services as provided in 53-21-1010;
- 7 (22) airport purposes as provided in 67-10-402 and 67-11-302;
- 8 (23) purebred livestock shows and sales as provided in 81-8-504;
- 9 (24) economic development purposes as provided in 90-5-112;
- 10 (25) prevention programs, including programs that reduce substance abuse; and
  - (26) forest or grassland hazardous fuels reduction projects in areas near homes and communities where wildland fire is a threat; and
- 13 (27) maintenance and construction of infrastructure."

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**Section 4.** Section 15-10-420, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-10-420. Procedure for calculating levy. (1) (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, a governmental entity that is authorized to impose mills may impose a mill levy sufficient to generate the amount of property taxes actually assessed in the prior year plus one-half of the average rate of inflation for the prior 3 years. The maximum number of mills that a governmental entity may impose is established by calculating the number of mills required to generate the amount of property tax actually assessed in the governmental unit in the prior year based on the current year taxable value, less the current year's newly taxable value, plus one-half of the average rate of inflation for the prior 3 years.

- (b) A governmental entity that does not impose the maximum number of mills authorized under subsection (1)(a) may carry forward the authority to impose the number of mills equal to the difference between the actual number of mills imposed and the maximum number of mills authorized to be imposed. The mill authority carried forward may be imposed in a subsequent tax year.
- (c) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), the department shall calculate one-half of the average rate of inflation for the prior 3 years by using the consumer price index, U.S. city average, all urban consumers, using the 1982-84 base of 100, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States department of labor.
  - (2) A governmental entity may apply the levy calculated pursuant to subsection (1)(a) plus any additional



levies authorized by the voters, as provided in 15-10-425, to all property in the governmental unit, including newly
 taxable property.

- 3 (3) (a) For purposes of this section, newly taxable property includes:
- 4 (i) annexation of real property and improvements into a taxing unit;
- 5 (ii) construction, expansion, or remodeling of improvements;
- 6 (iii) transfer of property into a taxing unit;
- 7 (iv) subdivision of real property; and

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- 8 (v) transfer of property from tax-exempt to taxable status.
  - (b) Newly taxable property does not include an increase in value that arises because of an increase in the incremental value within a tax increment financing district.
  - (4) (a) For the purposes of subsection (1), the taxable value of newly taxable property includes the release of taxable value from the incremental taxable value of a tax increment financing district because of:
    - (i) a change in the boundary of a tax increment financing district;
    - (ii) an increase in the base value of the tax increment financing district pursuant to 7-15-4287; or
- 15 (iii) the termination of a tax increment financing district.
  - (b) If a tax increment financing district terminates prior to the certification of taxable values as required in 15-10-202, the increment value is reported as newly taxable property in the year in which the tax increment financing district terminates. If a tax increment financing district terminates after the certification of taxable values as required in 15-10-202, the increment value is reported as newly taxable property in the following tax year.
  - (c) For the purpose of subsection (3)(a)(ii), the value of newly taxable class four property that was constructed, expanded, or remodeled property since the completion of the last reappraisal cycle is the current year market value of that property less the previous year market value of that property.
  - (d) For the purpose of subsection (3)(a)(iv), the subdivision of real property includes the first sale of real property that results in the property being taxable as class four property under 15-6-134 or as nonqualified agricultural land as described in 15-6-133(1)(c).
    - (5) Subject to subsection (8), subsection (1)(a) does not apply to:
  - (a) school district levies established in Title 20; or
- 28 (b) a mill levy imposed for a newly created regional resource authority.
- 29 (6) For purposes of subsection (1)(a), taxes imposed do not include net or gross proceeds taxes received 30 under 15-6-131 and 15-6-132.



1 (7) In determining the maximum number of mills in subsection (1)(a), the governmental entity:

- 2 (a) may increase the number of mills to account for a decrease in reimbursements; and
- 3 (b) may not increase the number of mills to account for a loss of tax base because of legislative action 4 that is reimbursed under the provisions of 15-1-121(7).
  - (8) The department shall calculate, on a statewide basis, the number of mills to be imposed for purposes of 15-10-108, 20-9-331, 20-9-333, <del>20-9-360,</del> and 20-25-439. However, the number of mills calculated by the department may not exceed the mill levy limits established in those sections. The mill calculation must be established in tenths of mills. If the mill levy calculation does not result in an even tenth of a mill, then the calculation must be rounded up to the nearest tenth of a mill.
- 10 (9) (a) The provisions of subsection (1) do not prevent or restrict:
- 11 (i) a judgment levy under 2-9-316, 7-6-4015, or 7-7-2202;
- 12 (ii) a levy to repay taxes paid under protest as provided in 15-1-402;
- 13 (iii) an emergency levy authorized under 10-3-405, 20-9-168, or 20-15-326;
- 14 (iv) a levy for the support of a study commission under 7-3-184;
  - (v) a levy for the support of a newly established regional resource authority;
- (vi) the portion that is the amount in excess of the base contribution of a governmental entity's property
   tax levy for contributions for group benefits excluded under 2-9-212 or 2-18-703; or
  - (vii) a levy for reimbursing a county for costs incurred in transferring property records to an adjoining county under 7-2-2807 upon relocation of a county boundary; or
  - (viii) a levy for local infrastructure projects under [section 1].
    - (b) A levy authorized under subsection (9)(a) may not be included in the amount of property taxes actually assessed in a subsequent year.
    - (10) A governmental entity may levy mills for the support of airports as authorized in 67-10-402, 67-11-301, or 67-11-302 even though the governmental entity has not imposed a levy for the airport or the airport authority in either of the previous 2 years and the airport or airport authority has not been appropriated operating funds by a county or municipality during that time.
    - (11) The department may adopt rules to implement this section. The rules may include a method for calculating the percentage of change in valuation for purposes of determining the elimination of property, new improvements, or newly taxable value in a governmental unit."



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**Section 5.** Section 15-24-1402, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-24-1402. New or expanding industry -- assessment -- notification. (1) In the first 5 years after a construction permit is issued, qualifying improvements or modernized processes that represent new industry or expansion of an existing industry, as designated in the approving resolution, must be taxed at 50% of their taxable value. Subject to 15-10-420, each year thereafter, the percentage must be increased by equal percentages until the full taxable value is attained in the 10th year. In subsequent years, the property must be taxed at 100% of its taxable value.

- (2) (a) In order for a taxpayer to receive the tax benefits described in subsection (1), the taxpayer must have applied by March 1 of the year during which the benefit is first applicable. The governing body of the affected county or the incorporated city or town must have approved by separate resolution for each project, following due notice as provided in 7-1-2121 if a county or 7-1-4127 if an incorporated city or town and a public hearing, the use of the schedule provided for in subsection (1) for its respective jurisdiction. The governing body may not grant approval for the project until all of the applicant's taxes have been paid in full. Taxes paid under protest do not preclude approval.
  - (b) The governing body shall:

- (i) publish due notice within 60 days of receiving a taxpayer's complete application for the tax treatment provided for in this section; and
- (ii) conduct a public hearing regarding an application for the tax treatment provided for in this section and deny or approve it within 120 days of receiving the application as provided in subsection (2)(b)(i).
- (c) If the governing body fails to hold a hearing or deny or approve the application within 120 days of receiving the application, the applicant may seek from the district court in the jurisdiction in which the county, city, or town is located a writ of mandamus to compel the governing body to make a determination.
- (d) Subject to 15-10-420, the governing body may end the tax benefits by majority vote at any time, but the tax benefits may not be denied an industrial facility that previously qualified for the benefits.
- (e) The resolution provided for in subsection (2)(a) must include a definition of the improvements or modernized processes that qualify for the tax treatment that is to be allowed in the taxing jurisdiction. The resolution may provide that real property other than land, personal property, improvements, or any combination thereof is eligible for the tax benefits described in subsection (1).
- (f) Property taxes abated from the reduction in taxable value allowed by this section are subject to recapture by the local governing body if the ownership or use of the property does not meet the requirements of



15-24-1401, this section, or the resolution required by subsections (2)(a) and (2)(e) of this section. The recapture is equal to the amount of taxes avoided, plus interest and penalties for nonpayment of property taxes provided in 15-16-102, during any period in which an abatement under the provisions of this section was in effect. The amount recaptured, including penalty and interest, must be distributed by the treasurer to funds and accounts subject to the abatement in the same ratio as the property tax was abated. A recapture of taxes abated by this section is not allowed with regard to property ceasing to qualify for the abatement by reason of an involuntary conversion. The recapture of abated taxes may be canceled, in whole or in part, if the local governing body determines that the taxpayer's failure to meet the requirements is a result of circumstances beyond the control of the taxpayer.

- (3) The taxpayer shall apply to the department for the tax treatment allowed under subsection (1). The application by the taxpayer must first be approved by the governing body of the appropriate local taxing jurisdiction, and the governing body shall indicate in its approval that the property of the applicant qualifies for the tax treatment provided for in this section. Upon receipt of the form with the approval of the governing body of the affected taxing jurisdiction, the department shall make the assessment change pursuant to this section.
- (4) The tax benefit described in subsection (1) applies only to the number of mills levied and assessed for local high school district and elementary school district purposes and to the number of mills levied and assessed by the governing body approving the benefit over which the governing body has sole discretion. The benefit described in subsection (1) may not apply to levies or assessments required under Title 15, chapter 10, 20-9-331, or 20-9-360 or otherwise required under state law.
- (5) Prior to approving the resolution under this section, the governing body shall notify by certified mail all taxing jurisdictions affected by the tax benefit."

**Section 6.** Section 15-24-1410, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-24-1410. (Temporary) Manufacturer of ammunition components -- exemption from statewide property taxes. As provided in 30-20-204, property used in the manufacture of ammunition components is exempt from the property taxes levied for state educational purposes under 15-10-108, 20-9-331, 20-9-333, 20-9-360, and 20-25-439. The exemption must be administered and applied for as provided in Title 30, chapter 20, part 2. (Terminates December 31, 2024--sec. 16, Ch. 440, L. 2015.)"

Section 7. Section 15-30-2336, MCA, is amended to read:



"15-30-2336. Refundable income tax credit -- statewide equalization property tax levies on principal residence -- rules. (1) (a) There is a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter, which is calculated by multiplying the amount of property taxes imposed and paid on a property taxpayer's principal residence under 20-9-331, and 20-9-333, and 20-9-360 on \$20,000 of market value on the residence times the relief multiple.

- (b) As used in subsection (1)(a), the relief multiple is a number used to change the amount of tax relief allowed under this section. The relief multiple is 0. Each interim, the revenue and transportation interim committee shall, based upon actual and projected state revenue and spending and any other appropriate factors, determine if a change in the relief multiple is justified. If a change is justified, the committee shall request a bill to change the relief multiple.
- (2) As used in this section, "principal residence" means a class four residential dwelling under 15-6-134 that is a single-family dwelling unit, unit of a multiple-unit dwelling, trailer, manufactured home, or mobile home and as much of the surrounding land, not exceeding 1 acre, as is reasonably necessary for its use as a dwelling and that is occupied by the owner for at least 7 months during the tax year.
  - (3) Only one claim may be made with respect to any property.
- (4) If the amount of the credit exceeds the claimant's liability under this chapter, the amount of the excess must be refunded to the claimant. The credit may be claimed even if the claimant has no income taxable under this chapter.
  - (5) The department may adopt rules to implement and administer this section."

**Section 8.** Section 15-39-110, MCA, is amended to read:

- "15-39-110. Distribution of taxes. (1) (a) For each semiannual period, the department shall determine the amount of tax, late payment interest, and penalties collected under this part from bentonite mines that produced bentonite before January 1, 2005. The tax is distributed as provided in subsections (2) through (9).
- (b) For each semiannual period, the department shall determine the amount of tax, late payment interest, and penalties collected under this part from bentonite mines that first began producing bentonite after December 31, 2004. The tax is distributed as provided in subsection (10).
- (2) The percentage of the tax determined under subsection (1)(a) and specified in subsections (3) through (9) is allocated according to the following schedule:
- 29 (a) 2.33% to the state special revenue fund to be appropriated to the Montana university system for the 30 purposes of the state tax levy as provided in 15-10-108;



1 (b) 18.14% to the state general fund to be appropriated for the purposes of the tax levies as provided 2 in 20-9-331, and 20-9-333, and 20-9-360; 3 (c) 3.35% to Carbon County to be distributed in proportion to current fiscal year mill levies in the taxing 4 jurisdictions in which production occurs, except a distribution may not be made for county and state levies under 5 15-10-108, 20-9-331, and 20-9-333, and 20-9-360; and 6 (d) 76.18% to Carter County to be distributed in proportion to current fiscal year mill levies in the taxing 7 jurisdictions in which production occurs, except a distribution may not be made for county and state levies under 8 15-10-108, 20-9-331, and 20-9-333, and 20-9-360. 9 (3) For the production of bentonite occurring after December 31, 2008, and before January 1, 2010, 60% 10 of the tax determined under subsection (1)(a) must be distributed as provided in subsection (2) and 40% must 11 be distributed as provided in subsection (10). 12 (4) For the production of bentonite occurring after December 31, 2009, and before January 1, 2011, 50% 13 of the tax determined under subsection (1)(a) must be distributed as provided in subsection (2) and 50% must 14 be distributed as provided in subsection (10). 15 (5) For the production of bentonite occurring after December 31, 2010, and before January 1, 2012, 40% 16 of the tax determined under subsection (1)(a) must be distributed as provided in subsection (2) and 60% must 17 be distributed as provided in subsection (10). 18 (6) For the production of bentonite occurring after December 31, 2011, and before January 1, 2013, 30% 19 of the tax determined under subsection (1)(a) must be distributed as provided in subsection (2) and 70% must 20 be distributed as provided in subsection (10). 21 (7) For the production of bentonite occurring after December 31, 2012, and before January 1, 2014, 20% 22 of the tax determined under subsection (1)(a) must be distributed as provided in subsection (2) and 80% must 23 be distributed as provided in subsection (10). 24 (8) For the production of bentonite occurring after December 31, 2013, and before January 1, 2015, 10% 25 of the tax determined under subsection (1)(a) must be distributed as provided in subsection (2) and 90% must 26 be distributed as provided in subsection (10). 27 (9) For the production of bentonite occurring in tax years beginning after December 31, 2014, 100% of 28 the tax determined under subsection (1)(a) must be distributed as provided in subsection (10). 29 (10)(3) For the production of bentonite, 100% of the tax determined under subsection (1)(b) and the 30 distribution percentages determined under subsections (3) through (9) are is allocated according to the following

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(a) 1.30% to the state special revenue fund to be appropriated to the Montana university system for the purposes of the state tax levy as provided in 15-10-108;

- (b) 20.75% to the state general fund to be appropriated for the purposes of the tax levies as provided in 20-9-331, and 20-9-333, and 20-9-360; and
- 6 (c) 77.95% to the county in which production occurred to be distributed in proportion to current fiscal year mill levies in the taxing jurisdictions in which production occurs, except a distribution may not be made for county and state levies under 15-10-108, 20-9-331, and 20-9-333, and 20-9-360.
  - (11)(4) The department shall remit the amounts to be distributed in this section to the county treasurer by the following dates:
  - (a) On or before October 1 of each year, the department shall remit the county's share of bentonite production tax payments received for the semiannual period ending June 30 of the current year to the county treasurer.
  - (b) On or before April 1 of each year, the department shall remit the county's share of bentonite production tax payments received to the county treasurer for the semiannual period ending December 31 of the previous year.
  - (12)(5) (a) The department shall also provide to each county the amount of gross yield of value from bentonite, including royalties, for the previous calendar year. Thirty-three and one-third percent of the gross yield of value must be treated as taxable value for determining school district debt limits under 20-9-406.
  - (b) The percentage amount of the gross yield of value determined under subsection (12)(a) (5)(a) must be treated as assessed value under 15-8-111 for the purposes of local government debt limits and other bonding provisions as provided by law.
  - (13)(6) The bentonite tax proceeds are statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department for distribution as provided in this section."

**Section 9.** Section 20-9-360, MCA, is amended to read:

"**20-9-360. State equalization aid <del>levy</del>. <del>Subject to 15-10-420, there is a levy of 40 mills imposed by the</del>** county commissioners of each county on all taxable property within the state, except property for which a tax or fee is required under 61-3-321(2) or (3), 61-3-529, 61-3-537, 61-3-562, 61-3-570, and 67-3-204. Proceeds of the levy must be remitted to the department of revenue, as provided in 15-1-504, and must be deposited to the credit



of the state general fund for state State equalization aid funding to the public schools of Montana is paid from the 1 2 state general fund."

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- **Section 10.** Section 30-20-204, MCA, is amended to read:
- "30-20-204. (Temporary) Property tax exemption for manufacturing of ammunition components -- conditions -- real property exemption applies to safety zone. (1) A person or entity in this state engaged in the primary business of the manufacture of ammunition components that meets the conditions in subsections (2) through (4) is exempt from:
- (a) property taxes levied for state educational purposes under 15-10-108, 20-9-331, 20-9-333, <del>20-9-360,</del> and 20-25-439; and
  - (b) business equipment tax levied pursuant to 15-6-138.
- (2) A person or entity in this state engaged in the primary business of the manufacture of ammunition components is exempt from property taxation as provided under subsection (1) if the person's or entity's business meets the following conditions:
  - (a) the products of the business are and remain available to commercial and individual consumers in the state:
  - (b) the business sells its products to in-state commercial and individual consumers for a price no greater than that for out-of-state purchasers, including any products that leave the state regardless of destination or purchaser; and
  - (c) the business does not enter into any agreement or contract that could actually or potentially command or commit all of its production to out-of-state consumers or interfere with or prohibit sales and provision of products to in-state consumers.
  - (3) The exemptions allowed under subsection (1) apply only to the property and business activity attributable to the manufacture of ammunition components.
  - (4) The real property exemption allowed under subsection (1)(a) encompasses any property within 500 yards of a structure used for the manufacture of ammunition components or of any structure used for storage of products manufactured onsite. (Terminates December 31, 2024--sec. 16, Ch. 440, L. 2015.)"

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29 NEW SECTION. Section 11. Sections amended by referendum. The following sections of the Montana Code Annotated are amended by this referendum:



1	7-6-2527.	Taxation public and governmental purposes.	
2	15-10-420.	Procedure for calculating levy.	
3	15-24-1402.	New or expanding industry assessment notification.	
4	15-24-1410.	Manufacturer of ammunition components exemption from statewide property taxes.	
5	15-30-2336.	Refundable income tax credit statewide equalization property tax levies on principal residence	
6		rules.	
7	15-39-110.	Distribution of taxes.	
8	20-9-360.	State equalization aid levy.	
9	30-20-204.	Property tax exemption for manufacturing of ammunition components conditions real property	
10		exemption applies to safety zone.	
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12	NEW SECTION. Section 12. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified		
13	as an integral part of Title 7, chapter 6, and the provisions of Title 7, chapter 6, apply to [sections 1 and 2].		
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15	NEW SECTION. Section 13. Effective date. If approved by the electorate, [this act] is effective Ju		
16	1, 2018.		
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18	NEW SECTION. Section 14. Applicability. If approved by the electorate, [this act] applies to lever the section 14.		
19	proceeds collected for taxes due on or after November 30, 2019.		
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21	NEW:	SECTION. Section 15. Submission to electorate. [This act] shall be submitted to the qualified	
22	electors of Montana at the primary election to be held in June 2018 by printing on the ballot the full title of [th		
23	act] and the following:		
24	[]	YES on Legislative Referendum	
25	[]	NO on Legislative Referendum	
26		- END -	

