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*** Bill No. ***

Introduced By *****

By Request of the Department of Administration

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act generally revising laws relating to state geographic information systems; amending requirements for the coordination of information collection, transfer, and accessibility for special districts; amending requirements for the coordination of information collection, transfer, and accessibility of conservation easements; transferring the responsibilities for administering the Montana Land Information Act from the department of administration to the state library; amending sections 7-11-1014, 7-11-1029, 76-6-212, 90-1-403, 90-1-404, 90-1-405, 90-1-406, 90-1-410, 90-1-411, and 90-1-413, MCA; and providing an effective date."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

Section 1. Section 7-11-1014, MCA, is amended to read:

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"7-11-1014. Additional reporting procedures -- coordination of information collection, transfer, and accessibility. (1) Within 60 days after the creation of a special district or by January 1 of the effective tax year, whichever occurs first, the governing body shall provide to the department of revenue a:

- (a) legal description of the special district;
- (b) map of its boundaries;
- (c) list of the property taxpayers or owners of real property within the special district's boundaries; and
- (d) copy of the resolution establishing the special district, including any adopted method of assessment.

(2) The department of revenue shall review the information provided in accordance with subsection (1) and work with the governing body to identify and correct any discrepancies before the information is recorded by the department.

(3) If the governing body intends to submit any digital information to the department of revenue for the purposes of subsection (4)(b), the governing body shall notify the department of revenue as to the expected date of

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submission and submit the digital information in a manner prescribed by the department of revenue in consultation with the ~~department of administration~~ state library.

(4) The ~~department of administration~~ state library, in coordination with the department of revenue, governing bodies, and other appropriate entities, may develop standards, best practices, and procedures for:

(a) collecting and transferring between agencies any digital information submitted by a governing body for purposes of subsection (4)(b); and

(b) creating digital information to map special districts for land information purposes authorized in Title 90, chapter 1, part 4, that can be accessed through the ~~department's~~ state library's base map service center's website and discovered through the Montana geographical information system portal at the Montana state library."

{*Internal References to 7-11-1014:*

x7-11-1023

x7-11-1029

x7-11-1029

Section 2. Section 7-11-1029, MCA, is amended to read:

"7-11-1029. Dissolution of special district. (1) A special district may be dissolved if it is considered to be

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in the best interest of a local government or the inhabitants of the local government or if the purpose for creating the special district has been fulfilled and the special district is not needed in perpetuity.

(2) The governing body may pass a resolution of intention to dissolve a special district upon its own request or upon request of the separate board administering the special district.

(3) After the passage of the resolution provided for in subsection (2), the clerk of the local government that established the special district shall publish a notice, as provided in 7-1-2121 or 7-1-4127, of the intention to dissolve the district.

(4) The notice must specify the boundaries of the special district to be dissolved, the date of the passage of the resolution of intention to dissolve, the date set for the passage of the resolution of dissolution, and that the resolution will be passed unless the clerk of the local government receives written protest in advance from:

(a) 40% of registered voters or 40% of the owners of real property in the district; or

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(b) 40% of registered voters or 40% of the property taxpayers in the district if the district program or improvements have been financed through a mill levy.

(5) If the special district is dissolved, the clerk of the local government shall immediately send written notice to:

(a) the secretary of state; and

(b) the department of revenue, providing the same information required in 7-11-1014 when a district is created. The department of revenue and the ~~department of administration~~ state library shall respond to the dissolution in the same manner as they respond to the creation of a district, as described in 7-11-1014.

(6) The dissolution of a special district may not relieve the property owners from the assessment and payment of a sufficient amount to liquidate all charges existing against the special district prior to the date of dissolution.

(7) Any assets remaining after all debts and obligations of the special district have been paid, discharged, or irrevocably settled must be:

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(a) deposited in the general fund of the local government;

(b) in the case of multiple local governments, divided in accordance with their interlocal agreement and deposited in the general fund of each local government; or

(c) transferred to a new special district that has been created to provide substantially the same service as provided by the dissolved special district.

(8) If the remaining assets are derived from private grants or gifts that restrict the use of those funds, the funds must be returned to the grantor or donor."

{*Internal References to 7-11-1029: None*}

Section 3. Section 76-6-212, MCA, is amended to read:

"76-6-212. Additional reporting procedures -- coordination of information collection, transfer, and accessibility. (1) A public body or qualified private organization holding a conservation easement before October 1, 2007, shall mail or electronically transfer a copy of that conservation easement to the department of revenue within 6 months of October 1, 2007.

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(2) The department of revenue shall review conservation easement agreements collected pursuant to 76-6-207 and subsection (1) of this section and record the:

(a) legal description of the conservation easement as it relates to the established property boundaries identified in the conservation easement agreement;

(b) approximate acreage as identified in the conservation easement agreement;

(c) date of the conservation easement agreement;

(d) book and page or document number as provided for in 7-4-2617; and

(e) name of the conservation easement grantee.

(3) (a) The department of revenue shall transfer conservation easement information collected pursuant to 76-6-207 and subsections (1) and (2) of this section to the ~~department of administration~~ state library.

(b) The department of revenue shall coordinate with the ~~department of administration~~ state library to develop procedures regarding the collection and transfer of conservation easement information between the two agencies.

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(c) The ~~department of administration~~ state library shall convert conservation easement information received from the department of revenue to a digital format for land information purposes authorized in Title 90, chapter 1, part 4, that can be accessed through the ~~department of administration's~~ state library's website.

(d) The ~~department of administration~~ state library shall ~~provide~~ incorporate the conservation easement data ~~to the Montana natural heritage program for incorporation into~~ appropriate databases developed or maintained by the Montana natural heritage program for the purposes of Title 90, chapter 15."

{*Internal References to 76-6-212:*
x90-1-404}

Section 4. Section 90-1-403, MCA, is amended to read:

"90-1-403. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Account" means the Montana land information account created in 90-1-409.

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(2) "Council" means the land information advisory council established in 90-1-405.

~~(3) "Department" means the department of administration provided for in 2-15-1001.~~

~~(4)~~(3) "Digital format" means information that is scanned, electronically drawn, layered through the GIS, or digitized by other electronic methods.

~~(5)~~(4) "Geographic information system" or "GIS" means an organized collection of computer hardware, software, land information, and other resources, including personnel, that is designed to or assists to efficiently collect, maintain, and disseminate all forms of geographically referenced information.

~~(6)~~(5) "Land information" means data that describes the geographic location and characteristics of natural or constructed features and boundaries within or pertaining to Montana."

(6) "State librarian" means the executive officer of the state library commission provided for in 22-1-102.

(7) "State library" means the state library provided for in 22-1-201."

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{Internal References to 90-1-403: None }

Section 5. Section 90-1-404, MCA, is amended to read:

"90-1-404. Land information -- management -- duties of ~~department~~ state library. (1) The ~~department~~ state library shall:

(a) serve as the administrator of the account;

(b) work with all federal, state, local, private, and tribal entities to develop and maintain land information;

(c) annually develop a land information plan that describes the priority needs to collect, maintain, and disseminate land information. The land information plan must have as a component a proposed budget designed to accomplish the goals and objectives of the plan.

(d) present the land information plan to the council for review and endorsement;

(e) establish, by administrative rule, an application process and a granting process that must be used to distribute funds in the account. The granting process must give preference to interagency or intergovernmental grant requests whenever multiple state agencies, local

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governments or agencies, or Indian tribal governments or tribal entities have partnered together to meet a requirement of the land information plan.

(f) review all grant applications from state agencies, local governments or agencies, and Indian tribal governments or tribal entities for the purpose of implementing the land information plan;

(g) monitor the use of grant funds distributed to a state agency, a local government or agency, or an Indian tribal government or tribal entity or to any combination of state, local, and Indian tribal governments or entities to ensure that the use of the funds complies with the purposes of this part;

(h) coordinate the development of technological standards for creating land information;

(i) serve as the primary point of contact for national, regional, state, and other GIS coordinating groups for the purpose of channeling issues and projects to the appropriate individual, organization, agency, or other entity;

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(j) provide administrative and staff support to the council, including paying the expenses of the council;

(k) annually prepare a budget to carry out the ~~department's~~ state library's responsibilities described in this section;

(l) report to the governor and the legislature, as provided for in 5-11-210, on the progress made in the ongoing collection, maintenance, standardization, and dissemination of land information; and

(m) implement the conservation easement information requirements as provided for in 76-6-212.

(2) To fulfill the responsibilities described in subsection (1), the ~~department~~ state library or any recipient of funds granted pursuant to this part may contract with a public or private entity."

{*Internal References to 90-1-404:*
x90-1-406 x90-1-410 x90-1-413}

Section 6. Section 90-1-405, MCA, is amended to read:

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"90-1-405. Land information advisory council --
appointments -- terms -- vacancies -- compensation. (1)

There is a land information advisory council.

(2) The council is composed of the following members:

(a) the ~~director of the department~~ state librarian or
the ~~director's~~ state librarian's designee who shall:

(i) serve as the presiding officer of the council; or

(ii) appoint the presiding officer from among the
other members of the council;

~~(b) the state librarian or the state librarian's~~
~~designee;~~

(b) the chief information officer provided for in 2-
17-506 or the chief information officer's designee;

(c) to be appointed by the governor:

(i) the directors of four other departments
established in Title 2, chapter 15. A director may
designate a person to act in the director's absence.

(ii) three persons who represent county or municipal
government, at least one of whom is active in land
information systems;

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- (iii) two persons who are employed by the U.S. department of agriculture;
 - (iv) two persons who are employed by the U.S. department of the interior;
 - (v) two persons who are active in land information systems and represent public utilities or private businesses;
 - (vi) one person who represents Indian tribal interests;
 - (vii) one person who represents the Montana university system;
 - (viii) two persons who are members of a Montana association of GIS professionals; and
 - (ix) one person who represents the interests of a Montana association of registered land surveyors;
- (d) one member of the Montana state senate, appointed by the committee on committees, who must be appointed prior to the appointment of the member described in subsection (2)(e); and
- (e) one member of the Montana house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of

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representatives, who may not be a member of the same political party as the member of the senate appointed under subsection (2)(d).

(3) Each council member is appointed for a 2-year term that begins on July 1 of the odd-numbered year and ends on June 30 of the succeeding odd-numbered year. A member may be reappointed to the council.

(4) A vacancy on the council must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, and the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(5) (a) A member of the council who is not a legislator or an employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state is eligible to be reimbursed and compensated, as provided in 2-15-124.

(b) A member of the council who is not a legislator but is an employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state is not entitled to compensation but is entitled to be reimbursed for expenses, as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

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(c) A legislator who is a member of the council is eligible to be compensated and reimbursed, as provided in 5-2-302."

{*Internal References to 90-1-405:*
x90-1-403 }

Section 7. Section 90-1-406, MCA, is amended to read:

"90-1-406. Land information advisory council -- duties -- advisory only. (1) The council shall:

(a) advise the ~~department~~ state library with regard to issues relating to the geographic information system and land information;

(b) advise the ~~department~~ state library on the priority of land information, including data layers, to be developed;

(c) review the land information plan described in 90-1-404 and advise the ~~department~~ state library on any element of the plan;

(d) advise the ~~department~~ state library on the development and management of the granting process described in 90-1-404(1)(e);

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(e) advise the ~~department~~ state library on the management of and the distribution of funds in the account;

(f) assist in identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing requests received from state agencies, local governments, and Indian tribal government entities to provide development of and maintenance of services relating to the GIS and land information;

(g) promote coordination of programs, policies, technologies, and resources to maximize opportunities, minimize duplication of effort, and facilitate the documentation, distribution, and exchange of land information; and

(h) advocate for the development of consistent policies, standards, and guidelines for land information.

(2) The council functions in an advisory capacity, as defined in 2-15-102."

{*Internal References to 90-1-406: None* }

Section 8. Section 90-1-410, MCA, is amended to read:

"90-1-410. **Montana land information account -- distribution of funds.** (1) The ~~department~~ state library

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shall annually prepare a budget to carry out the ~~department's~~ state library's responsibilities described in 90-1-404. Money in the account may be used to fund all or a portion of the budget or to otherwise accomplish the purposes of this part.

(2) A state agency, a local government, or an Indian tribal government entity may apply to the ~~department~~ state library for funds in the account for the purposes described in this part.

(3) The ~~department~~ state library shall ensure that funds distributed under this section are managed by the recipient of the funds according to standards and practices established by the ~~department~~ state library to allow for the greatest use and sharing of the land information."

{*Internal References to 90-1-410:*
x90-1-411 }

Section 9. Section 90-1-411, MCA, is amended to read:

"90-1-411. Montana land information account -- use of funds -- action by ~~department~~ state library -- hearing. (1) Money in the account may be used only for the purposes of this part, including purchasing technology to assist in

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collecting, maintaining, or disseminating land information and funding the budget required under 90-1-410.

(2) If the ~~department~~ state library determines that a recipient of funds from the account has not used or is not using funds in the manner prescribed by the ~~department~~ state library, the ~~department~~ state library may, after notice and hearing as provided for in Title 2, chapter 4, suspend further payment to the recipient.

(3) A recipient to whom the ~~department~~ state library has suspended payments under this section is not eligible to receive further funds from the account until the ~~department~~ state library determines that the recipient is using funds in the manner prescribed by the ~~department~~ state library."

{Internal References to 90-1-411: None }

Section 10. Section 90-1-413, MCA, is amended to read:

"90-1-413. Rulemaking. (1) The ~~department~~ state library shall adopt rules regarding:

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(a) designing and implementing the process to develop the land information plan described in 90-1-404(1)(c);

(b) the application and granting processes provided for in 90-1-404(1)(e);

(c) the monitoring process provided for in 90-1-404(1)(g); and

(d) the process for coordinating technological standards for creating land information provided for in 90-1-404(1)(h).

(2) The ~~department~~ state library may adopt other rules considered to be necessary for the effective administration of this part."

{*Internal References to 90-1-413: None* }

NEW SECTION. **Section 11. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2013.

-END-