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# HOUSE BILL 632

MAY 10, 2021



# SUMMARY OF HB 632

- Appropriates **\$2.1 billion in federal ARPA funds**
  - Appropriations made HB 632 are authorized to continue through the biennium starting July 1, 2023
- HB 632 creates **four** new commissions with oversight over federal ARPA funds
  1. **Infrastructure Advisory Commission** (staffed by Dept of Natl Resources & Cons.)
  2. **Communications Advisory Commission** (staffed by Dept of Commerce)
  3. **Economic Transformation and Stabilization Advisory Commission** (Commerce)
  4. **Health Advisory Commission** (staffed by Dept of Public Health & Human Services)

Commissions comprised of 3 senators (2R/1D); 3 representatives (2R/1D); 3 members appointed by governor

**Infrastructure  
Advisory  
Commission**

**\$582 million**

- Infrastructure
- State Capital
- State/Local Water and Wastewater

**(Sections 1 – 7)**

**Communications  
Advisory  
Commission**

**\$275 million**

- Broadband
- Cell towers
- Public safety

**(Sections 8 – 10)**

**Economic  
Transformation and  
Stabilization Advisory  
Commission**

**\$443 million**

- Economic grants and loans
- Mortgage/rental assistance
- Small Business Credit Initiative
- Workforce training
- Airport and rural transit

**(Sections 11 – 17)**

**Health Advisory  
Commission / HHS  
Budget Committee**

**\$383 million**

Includes:

- Vaccine/Testing
- Child Care
- Public Health Workforce
- Mental Health/SUD
- SNAP/LIHEAP

**(Sections 18 - 20)**

- Additional **\$489m** appropriated to state agencies that are not subject to commission oversight (Slide 9)

# INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Provides state and local infrastructure funds through two pots of money:**

- **\$462.7m** (state fiscal recovery funds) – state and local **water and wastewater projects**
  - **\$150m** to be used for minimum allocations to cities/counties in proportion with Gas Tax allocations
  - **\$10m** for regional water authorities
  - Local governments must provide matching funds – priority may be given to projects proposing a higher match
  - No project will be awarded more than \$25 million
- **\$119.3m for state capital projects** (state-owned buildings, MT university system,
  - Preference for geographically dispersed and tied to responding to COVID-19 (enabling work, education, health monitoring)

## ***Timeline for first round of water/sewer grants:***

- July 1, 2021: State and local govts submit requested projects to DNRC
- Aug. 15, 2021: Agencies submit recs. to advisory commission

“If a local government is awarded grant funds under the water/sewer funding, the amount of the grant is reduced by 20% if that local government or any of its authorized agents have current health regulations related to COVID-19 that are more strict than those imposed by the state in effect at the time of the award.” (Sec. 28)

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# COMMUNICATIONS/BROADBAND

- **\$275m** (state fiscal recovery funds) – communications projects
  - **Broadband infrastructure** (including cell towers), and **public safety**
  - Grants awarded to **local governments** or **private entities**, requires matching funds (preference may be given to proposals with higher match)
  - Preference to broadband access to ***frontier, unserved, and underserved areas*** (as defined by Commerce)

# BUSINESS AND HOUSING

## Business

- **\$150m** (state fiscal recovery funds) – **economic transformation and stabilization grants or loans** to businesses
  - **\$10 million** must be used for rapid retraining jobs training
  - Funding may be used for workforce training, return-to-work bonuses, short-term wage subsidies, hiring assistance, technology grants, agricultural resiliency, business transformation or stabilization
- **\$65m** – state **small business credit initiative**

## Process for economic transformation and stabilization grants/loans:

- Depts of Commerce, Labor & Industry, Agriculture will recommend programs and funding amounts to advisory commission
- Businesses or other organizations submit request to agencies
- Agency reviews and submits ranked projects to commission
- Commission issues final list of recommended grants to OBPP
- Executive releases approved projects (can modify)

## Housing Funding:

- **\$50m** – Mortgage assistance
- **\$11.5m** – HOME Program Supplemental Allocation (homelessness)
- **\$152.4m** – Emergency rental assistance
- Emergency rental assistance can be used to pay rent, including but not limited to, nursing homes, senior assisted living, group homes, low-income housing, transitional housing, correctional facilities, if eligible

# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **\$11,000,000** – SNAP benefits and admin
  - 15% benefit extension, program administration, contracted private sector workforce
- **\$200,000** – Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- **\$900,000** – Family Violence Prevention
- **\$1,111,000** – Child Abuse Prevention
- **\$165,900,000** – Vaccine distribution/supply, testing, contract tracing
- **\$112,500,000** – Child care stabilization and block grants
  - Prioritize child care block grants to child care deserts for one-time equipment and necessary infrastructure, property improvements, worksite childcare, licensing, and employee training and workforce development
- **\$1,700,000** – State Veterans' Homes
- **\$23,000,000** – Public health workforce

# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (CONT.)

- **\$10,500,000** – SAMHSA/Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
  - Consider use for HEART fund and suicide prevention
  - Potential use at department of corrections
- **\$31,775,000** – LIHEAP/water assistance
- **\$1,000,000** – Supporting Older Americans and Families
- **\$930,000** – Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- **\$2,726,000** – Pandemic Emergency Assistance
- **\$1,130,000** – Women, Infant, Children (WIC) program
- **\$1,223,000** – IDEA Infant and Toddlers
- **\$15m** – nursing home and hospital-based swing bed supplemental payments (state fiscal recovery funds, if eligible)
- **\$2.75m** – Medicaid rate study (state fiscal recovery fund, if eligible)



# FUNDS OUTSIDE COMMISSION PURVIEW

- **\$944,721 - Judicial Branch** – support court operations impacted by the pandemic
- **\$391,000,000 - Public Instruction (OPI)**
  - Basic allocation to districts (\$344m)
  - IDEA (\$9m)
  - State learning loss (\$19m)
  - OPI database (\$5m)
- **\$12,100,000 - Nonpublic schools (appropriated to Governor's office)**
- **\$2,300,000 - State Library** – hot spot lending; e-learning digital content
- **\$764,000 - MT Arts Council**
- **\$81,800,000** – Direct Allocation to **Non-Entitlement Local Governments**