

**Unofficial Draft Copy**

As of: June 4, 2014 (3:27pm)

LCMHSC

\*\*\*\* Bill No. \*\*\*\*

Introduced By \*\*\*\*\*

By Request of the Education and Local Government Interim  
Committee

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act appropriating money to the Montana historical society for the purpose of hiring a consultant to develop a digital archives plan; and providing an effective date."

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Montana has declared in 22-3-201, MCA, "that it is the public policy of the state of Montana that noncurrent records of permanent value to the state and to local governments should be preserved and protected"; and

WHEREAS, the state archivist has the duty to preserve noncurrent records of permanent value to the state pursuant to 22-3-203, MCA; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of state and local government records are created and exist in electronic format; and

WHEREAS, records maintained by electronic means allow for greater efficiency and increased accessibility; and

WHEREAS, records maintained by electronic means are vulnerable to technological obsolescence; and

WHEREAS, the state archives in the Montana historical society currently lacks the means to accept and manage records in electronic format.

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated to the Montana historical society \$208,000 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015 from the general fund.

(2) The appropriation is for the purpose of hiring a consultant to develop a digital archives preservation plan that can be used to ensure that the Montana state archives can collect, preserve, and provide access to state and local government records of permanent value in electronic format.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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