

**** Bill No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services
Interim Committee

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a steering committee for a working interdisciplinary network of guardianship stakeholders; providing an appropriation; and providing an effective date."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation for review of guardianship standards and practices.** (1) There is appropriated from the general fund to the judicial branch [AN AMOUNT] to facilitate the review of guardianship standards and practices as provided in this section.

(2) The appropriation must be used to establish and support the work of a steering committee appointed by the chief justice of the Montana supreme court from among the names of individuals who volunteer or are nominated to serve on the steering committee.

(3) The steering committee shall meet as needed to:

(a) review current guardianship laws, services, and practices to identify changes that may be necessary to improve those laws, services, or practices;

(b) identify gaps in the provision of guardianship

services, including gaps related to education and training of people serving as guardians;

(c) determine whether creation of a working interdisciplinary network of guardianship stakeholders would benefit guardianship services in Montana by providing for an ongoing means of evaluating guardianship laws, services, and practices; and

(d) review other topics as identified by steering committee members.

(4) (a) The steering committee may meet in person or by electronic means.

(b) Members are entitled to compensation of \$50 per day and may be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

(5) The committee shall report to the chief justice and the children, families, health, and human services interim committee no later than August 30, 2018, on its activities and recommendations.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

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