

HOUSE BILL NO. 346

INTRODUCED BY P. TUSS, E. ALBUS, S. GIST, S. FITZPATRICK, J. FITZPATRICK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXEMPTING DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAMS FROM REVIEW UNDER THE MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Exemption from environmental review.** The department is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing loans, administering a loan program, or creating a loan program related to microbusiness development pursuant to this part.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Exemption from environmental review.** The department of commerce is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing grants, administering a grant program, or creating a grant program related to historic preservation pursuant to this part.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Exemption from environmental review.** The department is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing grants, administering a grant program, or creating a grant program related to workforce training pursuant to this part.

NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Exemption from environmental review.** The department of commerce, the state-tribal economic development commission, and heritage preservation and cultural tourism commissions created as provided in 90-1-162 are exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing grants or loans, administering a grant or loan program, or creating a grant or loan program related to agritourism, heritage and cultural tourism, business investments in historic downtown and commercial areas, Montana-based films, regional development corporations, sites and programs associated with the Lewis and Clark expedition, small businesses, or tourism pursuant to this part.

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NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Exemption from environmental review.** The department is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing grants or loans, administering a grant or loan program, or creating a grant or loan program related to economic development projects pursuant to this part.

NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Exemption from environmental review.** The department of commerce is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing loans, administering a loan program, or creating a loan program related to the Montana wood products industry pursuant to this part.

NEW SECTION. **Section 7. Exemption from environmental review.** The department and the board of housing are exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing loans, administering a loan program, or creating a loan program related to the financing of housing pursuant to this part.

NEW SECTION. **Section 8. Exemption from environmental review.** The board of housing is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing loans, administering a loan program, or creating a loan program related to reverse annuity mortgage loans to elderly citizens.

NEW SECTION. **Section 9. Exemption from environmental review.** The board is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing loans, administering a loan program, or creating a loan program related to the veterans' home loan mortgage program.

NEW SECTION. **Section 10. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

NEW SECTION. **Section 11. Codification instruction.** (1) [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 17, chapter 6, part 4, and the provisions of Title 17, chapter 6, part 4, apply to [section

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2 (2) [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 22, chapter 3, part 13, and the  
3 provisions of Title 22, chapter 3, part 13, apply to [section 2].

4 (3) [Section 3] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 39, chapter 11, part 2, and the  
5 provisions of Title 39, chapter 11, part 2, apply to [section 3].

6 (4) [Section 4] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 90, chapter 1, part 1, and the  
7 provisions of Title 90, chapter 1, part 1, apply to [section 4].

8 (5) [Section 5] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 90, chapter 1, part 2, and the  
9 provisions of Title 90, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 5].

10 (6) [Section 6] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 90, chapter 1, part 5, and the  
11 provisions of Title 90, chapter 1, part 5, apply to [section 6].

12 (7) [Section 7] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 90, chapter 6, part 1, and the  
13 provisions of Title 90, chapter 6, part 1, apply to [section 7].

14 (8) [Section 8] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 90, chapter 6, part 5, and the  
15 provisions of Title 90, chapter 6, part 5, apply to [section 8].

16 (9) [Section 9] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 90, chapter 6, part 6, and the  
17 provisions of Title 90, chapter 6, part 6, apply to [section 9].

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19 **NEW SECTION. Section 12. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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