

HOUSE BILL NO. 543

INTRODUCED BY K. DUDIK

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING A STATEWIDE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN; DIRECTING THE MONTANA CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND TO CONDUCT THE CAMPAIGN; AMENDING SECTION 52-7-101, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

WHEREAS, the protection of Montana's children is a priority of the Montana Legislature; and
WHEREAS, statistics show that approximately one out of every five children is sexually abused before reaching 18 years of age; and

WHEREAS, the occurrence of child sexual abuse has devastating consequences for the individual child and the child's family; and

WHEREAS, the impact of child sexual abuse extends to the community and general public, causing significant economic impact because of the costs related to responding to these events as well as the long-term financial and economic impacts that cause millions of dollars in decreased worker productivity, decreased earning capacity, and lost revenue; and

WHEREAS, the sexual abuse of children is a societal problem that cannot be ignored; and

WHEREAS, preventing children from being sexually abused is a priority for the State of Montana.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Campaign for prevention of child sexual abuse. (1) The Montana children's trust fund board provided for in 2-15-2214 shall undertake a public health education effort that uses a multimedia campaign to raise awareness of the problem of child sexual abuse and to prevent the occurrence of such abuse. The education effort must:

- (a) be directed at changing adult behavior; and
 - (b) use an evidence-based model.
- (2) The board shall contract for the public health education effort.
- (3) The board shall allocate \$100,000 each year for the public health education effort required under this



1 section using money from:

- 2 (a) the Montana children's trust fund account provided for in 52-7-102;
- 3 (b) interest from the endowment for children provided for in 52-7-105;
- 4 (c) federal community-based grants for the prevention of child abuse and neglect as provided for under
- 5 42 U.S.C. 5116 and appropriated to the department of public health and human services; and
- 6 (d) other grants or gifts that may become available.

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8 **Section 2.** Section 52-7-101, MCA, is amended to read:

9 **"52-7-101. Child abuse and neglect prevention program.** (1) The Montana children's trust fund board,
10 provided for in 2-15-2214, shall use the money in the children's trust fund account established by 52-7-102 and
11 the interest from the endowment established by 52-7-105 to fund:

12 (a) services and activities related to a broad range of child abuse and neglect prevention activities and
13 family resource programs operated by nonprofit or public community-based educational and service
14 organizations; and

15 (b) child abuse and neglect prevention projects as authorized by the legislature.

16 (2) In administering the child abuse and neglect prevention program, the board shall:

- 17 (a) develop a state plan, priorities for funded services and activities, and criteria for the receipt of
- 18 program funds;
- 19 (b) monitor the expenditure of funds by organizations receiving funds under this section;
- 20 (c) evaluate the effectiveness of services and activities funded under this section; and
- 21 (d) adopt rules necessary to implement 52-7-103, 52-7-104, and this section."

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23 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
24 integral part of Title 52, chapter 7, part 1, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 7, part 1, apply to [section 1].

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26 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2013.

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28 NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Termination.** [Section 1] terminates June 30, 2017.

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