

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



JOHN WALSH
LT. GOVERNOR

May 6, 2013

The Honorable Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Secretary McCulloch:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto Senate Bill 370 (SB 370), "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE LEGISLATURE; REVISING LAWS RELATING TO FISCAL NOTES; AMENDING SECTIONS 5-4-201 AND 5-4-203, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

This bill would allow the Legislature to pass legislation from one house to another which has been deemed by the President of the Senate or Speaker of the House to have a fiscal impact to the State of Montana without an accurate fiscal analysis completed in compliance with Title 5, Chapter 4 of the Montana Code Annotated. This is a dangerous precedent which would, for the first time, legally allow the Legislature through willful ignorance, to ignore its constitutional responsibility to pass a balanced budget.

We, as elected leaders, have a responsibility to act as responsible stewards of the people's money. Turning a blind eye to the fiscal implications of legislation does not serve any of our shared purpose in doing so.

For these reasons, I veto SB 370.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Steve Bullock in black ink.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

cc: Legislative Services Division
Jeff Essmann, President of the Senate
Mark Blasdel, Speaker of the House