

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER  
LT. GOVERNOR

April 23, 2011

The Honorable Mike Milburn  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Jim Peterson  
President of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Speaker Milburn and President Peterson:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill No. 341 (HB 341), **"AN ACT REVISING THE INTEREST THAT MAY BE AWARDED ON CIVIL JUDGMENTS; CLARIFYING THAT THE CHANGE IN RATE DOES NOT APPLY TO SITUATIONS OTHER THAN CIVIL JUDGMENTS; AMENDING SECTIONS 25-9-205 AND 27-1-210, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."**

Montana statute establishes interest payments on judgments in civil cases at 10%. House Bill 341 seeks to establish a two-tiered system for interest, so that for actions for a recovery on an injury (injuries to the person and to property), the interest rate would fluctuate based on the prime rate published by the federal reserve system on the date of judgment, but for all other actions (unless specified by a controlling contract), the interest rate would remain at the current statutory rate of 10% without any rational basis for the distinction.

I believe HB 341 is unnecessary, unnecessarily complicated, and inequitable. I respectfully ask for your support in sustaining my veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer", is written over the printed name and title.  
BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR

cc: Legislative Services Division