

1 YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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3 _____ Bill Number _____

Legislative Action:

4 House Committee: _____

5 Introduced by: Carter R. Wilkinson

House: _____

6 Authored by: Carter R. Wilkinson

Senate Committee: _____

7 Senate: _____

8 Delegation: Bozeman High School

Governor: _____

9
10 Referred to Committee: _____

11 *****

12 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "An Act to Ensure Montanan Competence"

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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17 **Section 1. Definitions** Competence is defined as "fit or physically able by medical
18 standards." Sin-tax is defined as "a tax on something that is considered morally or medically
19 harmful." High fructose corn syrup is defined as "a comprise of a group of corn syrups that have
20 undergone enzymatic processing to convert their glucose into fructose and have been mixed with
21 pure corn syrup (100% glucose) to produce a desired sweetness.

22 **Section 2 Purpose.** The "Act to Ensure Montanan Competence" will collect results from
23 physicians from both public and privatized hospitals of patients who pass annual exams and fitness
24 tests. Those that pass these annual exams (35% in 2008) will receive a 5% decrease on overall
25 payments in state income tax. In other words, for being fit by medical standards, the citizen will
26 receive a 5% tax deduction on their state income tax. Those that do not pass, or refuse to take annual
27 fitness exams will be given wellness plans by their physicians and will NOT receive the tax cut.
28 Those that make an effort to be fit are rewarded. Because the state income tax contributes to the
29 General Fund (which funds statewide programs), a 5% tax deduction to a percentage of the
30 population would cause revenue loss. .In order to make up this difference a "sin tax" would be put in
31 place that would tax beverages that contain high fructose corn syrup (energy drinks, soda, fruit
32 juices, sports beverages, bottles coffee drinks NOT diet, un-caffeinated beverages).

33 **Section 3 Funding .** The sin tax will tax every ounce (oz) of high fructose corn syrup
34 beverage by one penny (one penny per ounce; a 12oz can of soda will contain a 12 cent tax,
35 ultimately 12 cent increase in price).

36 **Section 4. Enforcement.** 3 million dollars of the surplus created by the sin tax will be used
37 to enforce the "Act to Ensure Montanan Competence". The Montana Department of Public Health
38 will collect names of Montanans who pass the annual fitness exams, and will then transport the
39 information to the Montana Department of Revenue who will process the information and produce
40 the necessary tax cuts for those that pass these annual exams. The 3 million dollars will be used to
41 cover excess hours worked by employees as well as shipping and transportation costs of the people
42 who pass these fitness exams.

43 **Section 6. Enactment** The "Act to Ensure Montanan Competence" will be enacted in the
44 first month, January of 2011. Both the sin tax, and collection of information about those that pass
45 fitness exams will be collected at this time. The tax cuts themselves will take place in 2012 once all
46 persons who passed fitness exams have been attributed the tax cuts.

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