

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** MACOleg <MACOleg@mtcounties.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2018 11:51 AM  
**To:** MACOleg  
**Subject:** UPDATE: Federal Spending Bill: PILT, SRS, Forest Fires, and Elections  
**Importance:** High

UDPATE:

The President has signed the federal spending bill, which includes PILT & SRS, election assistance, and a change in wildfire funding.

Thank you,  
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**From:** MACOleg  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2018 10:11 AM  
**To:** MACOleg <MACOleg@mtcounties.org>  
**Subject:** Federal Spending Bill: PILT, SRS, Forest Fires, and Elections  
**Importance:** High

Good morning Montana Counties,

We have news regarding the federal spending bill:

**PILT** (estimated at approximately \$530 million as a one-year appropriation) and **SRS** (estimated at approximately \$465 million over two years—FFY17 and FFY18) have been included in the omnibus funding package that passed the US House of Representatives and Senate yesterday. This latest funding proposal has been negotiated by House and Senate leadership; it has yet to be signed by the President.

The payment details are still being evaluated, specifically the impacts of prior year payments on PILT funding when SRS payments are distributed as federal fiscal year 2017 payments, and previous Title I, II, and III allocation elections may define how the SRS funds are distributed. We will update you when more information becomes available.

There is also a big change in **wildfire funding**: The bill allows for fires to be treated as natural disasters, which allows agencies to pull resources from a different fund and not entirely from the USFS budget.

The bill also includes \$380 million for **election equipment upgrades** and other related **election assistance** from the Help America Vote Act of 2002. The congressional report language and instructions are below on the new election assistance aid.

**ELECTION REFORM PROGRAM** The bill provides \$380,000,000 to the Election Assistance Commission to make payments to states for activities to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements, as authorized under ..( H ~VA-) sections 101, 103, and 104 of the Help America Vote Act~02 (P.L. 107-252). Consistent with the requirements of HAVA, states may use this funding to: replace voting equipment that only records a voter's intent electronically with equipment that utilizes a voter-verified paper record; implement a post-election audit system that provides a high-level of confidence in the accuracy of the final vote tally; upgrade election-related computer systems to address cyber vulnerabilities identified through DHS or similar scans or assessments of existing election systems;

facilitate cybersecurity training for the state chief election official's office and local election officials; implement established cybersecurity best practices for election systems; and fund other activities that will improve the security of elections for federal office.

**Additional Information**

- <http://www.route50.com/finance/2018/03/fiscal-2018-spending-bill-state-local/146764/>
- [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/daily-202/2018/03/22/daily-202-winners-and-losers-in-the-spending-bill/5ab30e3f30fb045e48d05b4a/?utm\\_term=.6dbb34ac3a56&wpisrc=nl\\_daily202&wpmm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/daily-202/2018/03/22/daily-202-winners-and-losers-in-the-spending-bill/5ab30e3f30fb045e48d05b4a/?utm_term=.6dbb34ac3a56&wpisrc=nl_daily202&wpmm=1)

Again, we will send more information as we fish out more details.

Best,

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