



Joint Subcommittee On Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget

60TH Montana Legislature

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BITTERROOT VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The purpose of this document is to review the statutory and state level processes of creating a new community college district, review the current status of the proposed new Bitterroot Valley Community College district, and briefly review the estimated additional state costs should the proposed new Bitterroot Valley Community College district be authorized by the 2009 Legislature.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

The major process steps that must be achieved before a new community college district can operate are:

1. Title 20, Chapters 15 and 20 of the Montana Codes Annotated require the proposal for a new community college be presented to voters of the proposed community college district, and that the proposal pass.
2. Section 20-15-209, MCA requires that the Board of Regents certify the election results.
3. Section 20-15-209, MCA requires that the Board of Regents issue a recommendation to the legislature either for or against creation of a new community college district. This recommendation is non-binding.
4. The legislature passes a resolution authorizing the creation of a new community college district.
5. The legislature appropriates state funds for the new community college operation.

The table in the accompanying document (see the report [Procedures for Community College District Approval](#) posted on the PEPB website) includes more detail on the procedures for community college district approval. This document was prepared by Eddy McClure and distributed to the PEPB at its December 2007 meeting.

Status of Process to Establish Bitterroot Valley Community College District

1. Voters in the proposed Bitterroot Valley Community College district approved the proposal on May 8, 2007, with 52 percent for and 48 percent against the proposal.
2. The Board of Regents certified the election results on July 11, 2007.
3. The Board of Regents has not yet issued its recommendation to the legislature.
4. The Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee (PEPB) approved a draft resolution approving formation of a new community college. A sponsor for this bill draft will be

assigned at the September 2008 ELG meeting and the resolution will be introduced in the 2009 Legislature. A copy of this resolution is included with the PEPB September 2008 meeting materials.

5. Contingent upon passage of the resolution, the legislature will appropriation operational funds for the new community college during the 2009 session. This appropriation would likely be included in the general appropriations act (HB 2) for the 2011 biennium as well as the state pay plan bill (HB 13).

WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED STATE COST FOR THE PROPOSED BITTERROOT VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

As reported at the June 2008 PEPB meeting, the revised total start-up cost estimate for the 2011 biennium for the proposed Bitterroot Valley Community College is \$3.2 million. Of this amount, the state appropriation is just under one-half of this amount, or \$1.5 million, based upon the revised expenditure budgets submitted by the BVCC board of trustees and applying the funding formula approved by the Legislative Finance Committee that resulted in SB 12 of the 2007 regular legislative session. This estimate may need to be refined, as more updated information may be available.

The reader may find more detail on the estimated cost for the proposed BVCC in the staff report titled, "Bitterroot Valley Community College Updated Analysis of Preliminary 2011 Biennium Budget, June 12, 2008" at the following web link:

http://leg.mt.gov/content/publications/fiscal/subcommittees/PEPB/2007_interim/June_2008_BVCC_Budget_Analysis_Update.pdf

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