**** BILL NO. ****

INTRODUCED BY ****

BY REQUEST OF THE ****

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: “AN ACT PROVIDING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS FOR MEASURING OF STREAMFLOW.”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Policy considerations.** (1) Article IX, section 3(3), of the Montana constitution declares that all surface, underground, flood, and atmospheric waters within the boundaries of the state are the property of the state for the use of its people and are subject to appropriation for beneficial uses as provided by law.

(2) The legal appropriation of water requires that the water be legally and physically available for appropriation.

(3) Measurement and monitoring of streamflow supports the state's ability to determine when water is physically and legally available to meet new demands while protecting existing water rights.

(4) The effective management and distribution of water depends on accurate real-time measurement of streamflow.

- END -

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