**** BILL NO. ****

INTRODUCED BY ****

BY REQUEST OF THE ****

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: “AN ACT PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT REGARDING STREAMFLOW INFORMATION.”

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Intent.** (1) The 2015 state water plan recognizes that improving Montana's water supply and distribution monitoring network will improve the ability of water managers and water users to adjust to seasonal supply and demand imbalances as well as plan for longer term imbalances associated with climate variability.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to support local, state, and federal efforts and programs to collect and distribute timely and accurate information on Montana streamflows.

(3) The legislature recognizes that streamflow information is collected by numerous state and federal agencies and tribes to meet their statutory responsibilities.

(4) The legislature recognizes that streamflow information collected by state, tribal, and federal entities is critical to administration of the Montana Water Use Act, distribution of water by decree, water supply planning for municipalities, and implementation of plans and agreements that address locally developed drought, fish habitat, or water supply objectives.

(5) The legislature recognizes it is in the public interest to support and encourage coordination in the collection and distribution of streamflow information.

- END -