



LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

66th Montana Legislature

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August 11, 2020

Budget Director Tom Livers and State Agency Financial Services Administrators,

The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) has directed a study of how to adequately and fairly distribute the cost of administering and operating the natural resource information system (NRIS) and other digital library services among state agencies as required in HB 633.

As outlined in the Legislative Fiscal Division report MSL Options for Funding, the LFC recommends:

- Adjusting assessments for the NRIS Program to expand the number of agencies assessed and increasing the assessment to more fully fund the program
- Assessing state agencies for the MSL archiving web domains

In order for these recommendations to be implemented they would need to be included in the 2023 biennium budget. The LFC respectfully requests that you consider expanding the number of agencies and increasing the assessment for the NRIS Program and establishing a state agency assessment for the archival process for web domains within the executive's proposed budget for the 2023 biennium budget. The LFC Education Subcommittee is scheduled to meet in August to finalize recommendations on how to establish the assessments.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.