

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

March 26, 2021

1. Legislative Update

- See the enclosed weekly legislative report from Greg Dorrington and Aimee Grmoljez.
- Council member Boyette testified against SB385; Wyeth testified against two bad TIF Bills; Aimee and Greg helped our partners table HB636. HB636 would have lowered the tax rate for Commercial and Residential property – sounds good except even the Taxpayers Association spoke in opposition since the bill simply shifts the tax burden. With the exception of Billings and Sunburst, all other cities in MT can “float” their mill levy to capture the same revenue as the prior year + 1/2 the inflation rate and new construction. Had the legislation passed, our general fund would have lost \$1.5M and our public safety fund would have lost \$1.2M.

2. Proposed Massage & Spa Facility Business License – With so many versions of this draft ordinance floating around; please look for the 3-12-21 FIRST READING – DRAFT watermark to make sure you are looking at the most recent version. This will be included along with a cover memo for the April 12 regular city council meeting. Wednesday, April 7 @ 6:00 PM, the staff will also be hosting an on-line town-hall like session to present the draft ordinance to the community and answer questions. The draft ordinance is attached.

3. Yard Waste Program - The annual yard waste collection program will start on Monday, April 5 this year and run through Thanksgiving week. Property owners have the option of using their regular black container when the yard waste program is not running, or they can bag/box/bundle their yard waste and set it beside their black container for pick up. When using the green barrels, it is preferable for people NOT to bag the yard waste as it works best when we do not have plastic at the landfill. Also, it is good to remember what’s allowed (grass, weeds, leaves, small branches) and not allowed (dirt, rocks, sod) in the containers. If property owners do not have a green barrel and they are part of the regular city pick -up program, they can call 657-8285 to sign up for the program. We will deliver a green barrel (one per property) at no additional cost. We have had several inquiries about the duration of the program and if it can be extended. Due to union issues with seasonal employees, cost to perform the work, and the typical Billings weather, we are not planning to extend the duration. As mentioned above, property owners do have options from December through March.

4. Budget Presentations – Information Technology, Parking, Fleet Services, Facilities/Building, Fire and Human Resources each presented their budgets this week to Andy, Kevin and I.

5. CPTED MT Avenue – Several business leaders along with Commissioner Jones, Mayor Cole and I attended the Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) assessment presentation for the Montana Ave. business area. The assessment provided excellent feedback on how to continue improving the corridor. The area is doing a great job and is one of our strongest business districts downtown. Many of the recommendations are tied to lighting improvements and keeping people out of rear and side entrance coves. The assessment covered the alley, parking lots and of course MT Ave.

6. Substance Abuse Connect (SAC) – Kristin Lundgren has accepted the newly created position to lead SAC. County Commissioner Don Jones and I met with Kristin and Melanie Schwarz to discuss the collaborative work between SAC partners, the City and County. The City's downtown MAP program is back up and running with a minimum of 5 jail beds being assigned to our substance abuse efforts. Much more to come. Kristin actually begins her new responsibilities in approx. 30 days. She is going to do a great job!

7. Legislative Video Conference – Thursday, April 8th at Noon. MSUB, College of Business MacDonald Hall, Room 163. The 6th of 7 in a partnership between the City, Chamber and MSUB. Please RSVP through wynnette.

8. Hybrid Council Meeting Update

1. Technology installations were completed last weekend.
2. Throughout this week - Cannel 7, city IT and other key staff have been testing equipment and options throughout this week.
3. Yesterday several Council members and staff tested the system again.

Rough protocol are as follows – All in-person attendees with follow CDC guidelines.

1. Mayor and Council members have the option to attend meetings in-person or by Zoom.
2. The city administrator, city attorney, assistant city administrator and a tech/zoom support person will attend meetings in person. All other staff will attend meetings via Zoom including the Clerk. We will test if the Clerk can manage the Zoom attendance and take minutes.
3. The public will attend in person or by Zoom. We need to determine the in-person room capacity. We will no longer use the phone line for public comment. Zoom attendees will need to register ahead of the meeting. As has always been the case, citizens can contact any of us by email or by phone.

April 5 will be our first run at in-person/Zoom hybrid Council Work Session.

Have a good weekend!



CITY OF BILLINGS
2021 Montana Legislature
Weekly Session Report – March 25, 2021

WEEKLY SESSION REPORT









City of Billings





















March 25, 2021

















- * After the bill number denotes the bill is dead
- The governor must sign or veto a bill within 10 days of transmittal or it becomes law
- All green shaded bills have become law

















City of Billings



















INTRODUCED BILL DRAFTS

















Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
Bill Type - Number	LC Number	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Note
HB 18  	LC0354	Geraldine Custer (R) HD 39	(H) Tabled in Committee* -- (H) Appropriations	01/11/2021	Appropriation for Local Government Center	Support
HB 32  	LC0273	Sue Vinton (R) HD 56	(H) Transmitted to Governor	03/23/2021	Repeal ending fund balance limits for school district funds	Monitor
HB 50  	LC0441	Frank Garner (R) HD 7	(S) Committee Report--Bill Concurred -- (S) Energy and Telecommunications	03/24/2021	Redistribute 9-1-1 funding to state library	Monitor
HB 62  	LC0358	Mike Hopkins (R) HD 92	Chapter Number Assigned	02/26/2021	Update water and wastewater revolving loan program	Monitor

















Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
HB 73  	LC1315	Barry Usher (R) HD 40	(S) Hearing -- (S) Finance and Claims	03/18/2021; 2:00 PM, Rm 303	Generally revise laws related to the criminal justice oversight council	Monitor
HB 86  	LC0469	Mary Ann Dunwell (D) HD 84	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Allow the creation of regional fire protection authorities	Monitor
HB 97  	LC0561	Wendy McKamey (R) HD 19	(H) Sent to Enrolling	03/22/2021	Revise ethics laws regarding application to boards and commissions	Monitor
HB 102  	LC1333	Seth Berglee (R) HD 58	Chapter Number Assigned	02/18/2021	Generally revise gun laws	Oppose
HB 107  	LC1089	Ron Marshall (R) HD 87	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise mill levy election laws	Oppose
HB 115  	LC0924	Bill Mercer (R) HD 46	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	03/25/2021	Increase penalties for 5th and subsequent DUI	Support
HB 121  	LC0578	David Bedey (R) HD 86	(S) Scheduled for 3rd Reading	03/25/2021	Require elected official approval of local health board and officer actions	Monitor
HB 123  	LC0577	David Bedey (R) HD 86	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise laws regarding the stringency of local septic regulations	Monitor
HB 126  	LC1450	Kathy Kelker (D) HD 47	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise laws concerning conduct of persons with alcoholism and drug addiction	Monitor
HB 132  	LC1029	Fred Anderson (R) HD 20	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Require property tax bill to include comparison to prior year	Monitor

















Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
HB 134  	LC0837	Danny Tenenbaum (D) HD 95	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Allow zoning for duplex, triplex, and fourplex housing in certain municipalities	Oppose through MLCT
HB 137  	LC1090	Ron Marshall (R) HD 87	(S) Tabled in Committee -- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	03/17/2021	Generally revise vaping and alternative nicotine products laws	Oppose
HB 145  	LC1567	Paul Fielder (R) HD 13	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Allow local boards of health and health officers to issue recommendations	Monitor
HB 154  	LC1065	Dave Fern (D) HD 5	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise resort tax population limits	Monitor
HB 158  	LC1510	Caleb Hinkle (R) HD 68	(S) Referred to Committee -- (S) Public Health, Welfare and Safety	03/15/2021	Create study commission to review covid-19 statute & rule suspensions	Monitor
HB 165  	LC2177	Jeremy Trebas (R) HD 26	(H) Tabled in Committee* -- (H) Taxation	01/28/2021	Increase vehicle fees to reduce residential property taxes	Monitor
HB 169  	LC2893	Steve Gist (R) HD 25	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Deter the fraudulent use or theft of taxpayer-funded resources	Monitor
HB 174  	LC1174	Kenneth L Holmlund (R) HD 38	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Generally revise winery laws	Oppose



















Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
HB 187  	LC1064	Dave Fern (D) HD 5	(H) Tabled in Committee* -- (H) Taxation	01/29/2021	Provide for local option sales tax	Support
HB 200  	LC1175	Kenneth L Holmlund (R) HD 38	(H) Transmitted to Governor	03/24/2021	Establish laws prohibiting sanctuary cities in Montana	Oppose through MLCT
HB 201  	LC0738	Kenneth L Holmlund (R) HD 38	(S) Committee Report--Bill Concurred -- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	03/22/2021	Revise prevailing wage district laws and dispatch city designations	Monitor
HB 234  	LC1326	Mallerie Stromswold (R) HD 50	(H) Transmitted to Governor	03/17/2021	Remove sunset on requirement that massage therapy businesses display licenses	Monitor
HB 243  	LC0309	Mike Hopkins (R) HD 92	(H) Sent to Enrolling	03/24/2021	Generally revise laws related to law enforcement officers	Monitor
HB 248  	LC1537	Kelly Kortum (D) HD 65	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise the Montana primary election date	Monitor
HB 254  	LC0645	Ross H Fitzgerald (R) HD 17	(H) Returned from Enrolling	03/23/2021	Revise the wrongful discharge act	Monitor
HB 255  	LC1554	Larry Brewster (R) HD 44	(S) Committee Report--Bill Concurred as Amended -- (S) Local Government	03/18/2021	Revising time period to protest sewer and/or water district assessments	Support w/ amendments





















Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
HB 257  	LC1436	Jedediah Hinkle (R) HD 67	(S) Hearing -- (S) Judiciary	03/22/2021; 8:00 AM, Rm 303	Revise laws relating to government mandates and businesses	Oppose through MLCT
HB 258  	LC1467	Jedediah Hinkle (R) HD 67	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	03/24/2021	Revise laws related to firearms, ammunition, and accessories	Oppose through MLCT
HB 259  	LC0304	Sue Vinton (R) HD 56	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	03/25/2021	Revise property and zoning laws	Oppose
HB 264  	LC0627	Ross H Fitzgerald (R) HD 17	(S) Hearing -- (S) Highways and Transportation	03/25/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 405	Revise emergency vehicle passing laws	Monitor
HB 269  	LC1810	Ron Marshall (R) HD 87	(S) Hearing -- (S) Local Government	03/15/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 405	Require elected official approval of sanitation related local health board rules	Monitor
HB 327  	LC0832	Julie Dooling (R) HD 70	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Provide default definitions for covenants limiting the use of real property	Monitor
HB 357  	LC1563	Jim Hamilton (D) HD 61	(S) Hearing -- (S) Taxation	03/18/2021; 9:00 AM, Rm 405	Revise property tax assistance program inflation adjustment laws	Monitor
HB 366  	LC1535	Kelly Kortum (D) HD 65	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Generally revising election terminology for mail and absentee ballots	Monitor
HB 391  	LC1318	Frank Fleming (R) HD 51	(S) Hearing -- (S) Judiciary	03/30/2021; 8:00 AM, Rm 303	Revise and enhance penalties for criminal distribution of dangerous drugs	Monitor

















Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
HB 395  	LC2794	Julie Dooling (R) HD 70	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Prohibit the creation of new zoning districts during a state of emergency	Oppose
HB 420  	LC2587	Scot Kerns (R) HD 23	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise bicycle laws	Oppose through MLCT
HB 422  	LC1539	Kelly Kortum (D) HD 65	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Authorize municipalities to operate broadband utilities	Monitor
HB 435  	LC1264	Bill Mercer (R) HD 46	(S) Committee Report--Bill Concurred -- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	03/22/2021	Generally revise civil liability laws for government	Support
HB 436  	LC2594	Scot Kerns (R) HD 23	(S) Hearing -- (S) Judiciary	03/16/2021; 8:00 AM, Rm 303	Generally revise firearms laws	Oppose
HB 444  	LC2755	Edward Buttrey (R) HD 21	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	03/24/2021	Revise subdivisions of land exempted from sanitation in subdivision review	Monitor
HB 450  	LC3217	Steve Gunderson (R) HD 1	(S) Hearing -- (S) Local Government	03/15/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 405	Provide that exempt divisions of land must meet zoning regulations	Support through MLCT
HB 452  	LC1540	Kelly Kortum (D) HD 65	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Permit local governments to use ranked choice voting in local elections	Monitor

















Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
HB 470  	LC3028	Marty Malone (R) HD 59	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Allow for a citizen initiated planning board and additional zoning criteria	Monitor
HB 496  	LC2611	Bill Mercer (R) HD 46	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	03/25/2021	Remove prohibitions on county board of appeals re: property use and zoning	Monitor w/ amendments
HB 504  	LC1655	Casey Knudsen (R) HD 33	(S) Committee Report--Bill Concurred as Amended -- (S) Judiciary	03/19/2021	Generally revise firearms and weapons laws	Oppose through MLCT
HB 527  	LC2923	Fiona Nave (R) HD 57	(S) Hearing -- (S) Local Government	03/24/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 405	Require draft proposals before initiating a county zoning/planning board	Monitor
HB 528  	LC2796	Julie Dooling (R) HD 70	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Generally revise county planning, zoning, and subdivision regulation laws	Oppose
HB 529  	LC2797	Julie Dooling (R) HD 70	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise planning, zoning, and subdivision regulation laws	Oppose
HB 531  	LC1327	Caleb Hinkle (R) HD 68	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise qualified immunity laws	Oppose
HB 561  	LC1320	Jim Hamilton (D) HD 61	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Generally revise involuntary commitment hearing requirements	Monitor

















Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
HB 578  	LC3268	Terry Moore (R) HD 54	(S) Referred to Committee -- (S) Judiciary	03/08/2021	Revise laws related to commitment of defendants	Support (City Bill)
HB 584  	LC2853	Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R) HD 43	(H) Tabled in Committee* -- (H) Appropriations	03/09/2021	Requiring certain costs paid to detention center be based on actual costs	Monitor
HB 591  	LC2829	Joe Read (R) HD 93	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Generally revise evidence laws	Oppose
HB 592  	LC2828	Joe Read (R) HD 93	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Generally revise absolute liability laws	Oppose
HB 596  	LC2830	Joe Read (R) HD 93	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Generally revise laws related to false arrest and imprisonment	Oppose
HB 615  	LC2356	Mike Hopkins (R) HD 92	(H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise tax increment financing laws related to bonding	Monitor
HB 616  	LC2355	Mike Hopkins (R) HD 92	(S) Hearing -- (S) Taxation	03/11/2021; 9:00 AM, Rm 405	Revise laws related to the adoption of a tax increment provision	Monitor
HB 632  	LC2555	Frank Garner (R) HD 7	(H) Hearing -- (H) Appropriations	03/26/2021; 2:00 PM, Rm 102	Implement receipt of and appropriate federal stimulus and COVID recovery funds	Monitor





Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
HB 639  	LC2272	Matt Regier (R) HD 4	(H) Hearing -- (H) Taxation	03/24/2021; 8:00 AM, Rm 152	Revise laws related to adoption of a tax increment provision	Oppose
HB 640  	LC0478	Mike Hopkins (R) HD 92	(H) Hearing -- (H) Business and Labor	03/24/2021; 08:30 AM, Rm 172	Generally revise marijuana laws	Monitor
HB 670  	LC1779	Derek Skees (R) HD 11	(H) Referred to Committee -- (H) Business and Labor	03/24/2021	Generally revise laws to implement recreational marijuana program	Monitor
SB 23  	LC0274	Daniel R Salomon (R) SD 47	Chapter Number Assigned	02/23/2021	Eliminate state school flexibility account	Support
SB 44  	LC0364	John Esp (R) SD 30	(H) Committee Report--Bill Concurred -- (H) Local Government	03/19/2021	Revise subdivision laws	Support w/ amendments from MLCT
SB 47  	LC1314	Ryan Lynch (D) SD 37	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	02/19/2021	Generally revise laws related to DOC commits	Oppose
SB 48  	LC0295	Mike Fox (D) SD 16	(S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Allowing transfer of certain highway funding to tribes	Monitor
SB 51  	LC0062	Jason W Ellsworth (R) SD 43	(H) Hearing -- (H) Appropriations	03/17/2021; 2:00 PM, Rm 102	Exempting certain fiber optic, coaxial cable from property taxation	Monitor
SB 65  	LC0901	Steve Fitzpatrick (R) SD 10	Chapter Number Assigned	02/11/2021	Revise civil liability laws	Monitor

Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
SB 67  	LC0084	Steve Fitzpatrick (R) SD 10	Chapter Number Assigned	03/08/2021	Revise laws pertaining to law enforcement	Monitor
SB 73  	LC0802	Keith Regier (R) SD 3	(S) Tabled in Committee* -- (S) Taxation	01/29/2021	Provide for local distribution of lodging sales tax revenue	Support
SB 77  	LC0552	Tom McGillvray (R) SD 23	(S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise special district financing and dissolution provisions	Oppose
SB 78  	LC0018	Douglas (Doug) Kary (R) SD 22	(S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise allowable special district assessment methods	Oppose
SB 80  	LC2959	Keith Regier (R) SD 3	(C) Draft Delivered to Requester	03/19/2021	Limit the duration of interlocal agreements	Monitor
SB 89  	LC0808	Keith Regier (R) SD 3	(S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Revise laws related to collection of union dues	Monitor
SB 127  	LC2439	Chris Friedel (R) SD 26	(S) Returned from Enrolling	03/23/2021	Revise laws on the selection of municipal court judges	Monitor
SB 135  	LC0313	Steve Fitzpatrick (R) SD 10	(H) Scheduled for 3rd Reading	03/25/2021	Allow a county commission to hold certain zoning appeal hearings de novo	Monitor
SB 161  	LC1085	John Esp (R) SD 30	(S) Sent to Enrolling	03/23/2021	Allow certain subdivisions to qualify for an expedited review	Monitor as Amended
SB 165  	LC0584	Carl Glimm (R) SD 2	(H) Hearing -- (H) Natural Resources	03/19/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 172	Generally revise laws related to the department of environmental quality	Oppose Through MLCT

Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
SB 171  	LC0499	Chris Friedel (R) SD 26	(H) Returned to Senate	03/24/2021	Increasing county procurement options with cooperative purchasing agreements	Monitor
SB 174  	LC2326	Greg Hertz (R) SD 6	(H) Hearing -- (H) Local Government	03/11/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 472	Revise laws related to local subdivision review	Oppose
SB 211  	LC0882	Steve Fitzpatrick (R) SD 10	(H) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	03/25/2021	Revise local subdivision review criteria regarding agriculture	Monitor
SB 215  	LC2836	Carl Glimm (R) SD 2	(H) Committee Report--Bill Concurred -- (H) Judiciary	03/19/2021	Establish the religious freedom restoration act	Oppose through MLCT
SB 219  	LC0310	David Howard (R) SD 29	(H) Hearing -- (H) Judiciary	03/24/2021; 8:00 AM, Rm 137	Providing for release of call location to law enforcement in an emergency	Monitor
SB 228  	LC1224	Greg Hertz (R) SD 6	(S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Generally revise public employee union laws	Monitor
SB 231  	LC0763	Mark Blasdel (R) SD 4	(H) Committee Report--Bill Concurred as Amended -- (H) Natural Resources	03/24/2021	Revise exempt well laws related to family transfer parcels	Oppose through MLCT
SB 232  	LC0311	Terry Gauthier (R) SD 40	(S) Hearing -- (S) Finance and Claims	03/25/2021; 9:00 AM, Rm 317	Revise laws related to highway patrol compensation	Monitor

Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
SB 238  	LC0312	Terry Gauthier (R) SD 40	(H) Hearing -- (H) Local Government	03/18/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 472	Revise compensation for sheriffs, undersheriffs, and deputy sheriffs	Monitor
SB 257  	LC0703	Jason D Small (R) SD 21	(H) Committee Report--Bill Concurred -- (H) Taxation	03/12/2021	Prohibit local governments from imposing carbon penalties, fees, or taxes	Monitor
SB 260  	LC2519	Steve Fitzpatrick (R) SD 10	(H) Hearing -- (H) Business and Labor	03/16/2021; 08:30 AM, Rm 172	Generally revise related to property interests and transfer of businesses	Oppose
SB 268  	LC1061	Brian Hoven (R) SD 13	(S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Allow for the condemnation and reacquisition of a mobile home park	Support
SB 269  	LC1062	Brian Hoven (R) SD 13	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	03/24/2021	Allow mobile home owners the option to purchase a mobile home park	Support
SB 286  	LC2062	Steve Hinebauch (R) SD 18	(H) Hearing -- (H) Local Government	03/18/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 472	Prohibit certain prescriptive easements in a platted subdivision	Monitor
SB 294  	LC3041	John Esp (R) SD 30	(H) Hearing -- (H) Local Government	03/16/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 472	Allow for a referendum to terminate a county zoning district	Monitor
SB 297  	LC1529	Jason W Ellsworth (R) SD 43	(H) Referred to Committee -- (H) Energy, Technology and Federal Relations	03/17/2021	ConnectMT Act to establish broadband deployment	Monitor

Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
SB 301  	LC2058	Theresa Manzella (R) SD 44	(H) Committee Report--Bill Concurred -- (H) Business and Labor	03/19/2021	Provide statewide uniformity regarding wages/benefits for political subdivisions	Monitor
SB 313  	LC2411	Christopher Pope (D) SD 31	(S) Tabled in Committee* -- (S) Taxation	02/26/2021	Provide for local option tax: Montana Tax Fairness and Rural Revenue Initiative	Monitor
SB 333  	LC0110	Brad Molnar (R) SD 28	(S) Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended -- (S) Judiciary	03/17/2021	Generally revise drug and human trafficking laws	Monitor
SB 335  	LC1920	Gordon Vance (R) SD 34	(S) 2nd Reading Indefinitely Postponed*	03/17/2021	Prohibiting certain funding to be used for state or local elections	Monitor
SB 362  	LC1060	Brian Hoven (R) SD 13	(S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal*	03/02/2021	Generally revise the Residential Mobile Home Lot Rental Act	Monitor
SB 375  	LC0814	Keith Regier (R) SD 3	(S) Hearing -- (S) Taxation	03/19/2021; 9:00 AM, Rm 405	Limit property tax increases for certain individuals	Monitor
SB 385  	LC0729	Greg Hertz (R) SD 6	(S) Hearing -- (S) Local Government	03/24/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 405	Revise special district laws and provide time limit on property tax levies	Oppose
SB 388  	LC0587	Greg Hertz (R) SD 6	(S) Hearing -- (S) Local Government	03/26/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 405	Provide for infrastructure through tax increment financing	Oppose

Bill Draft No.	LC No.	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose
SB 390  	LC0711	Brad Molnar (R) SD 28	(S) Hearing -- (S) Taxation	03/30/2021; 9:00 AM, Rm 405	Establish the Water Severance Beneficial Use Act	Monitor
SB 393  	LC3274	Bob Keenan (R) SD 5	(S) Hearing -- (S) Judiciary	03/30/2021; 8:00 AM, Rm 303	Generally revise laws related to public's right to know and participate	Monitor (likely Support)

**City of Billings
UNINTRODUCED BILL DRAFTS**

Bill Draft No. (LC No.)	Request Date	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Position: Support; Monitor; Oppose

ORDINANCE NO. 21-_____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA, REGULATING MASSAGE AND SPA FACILITIES THROUGH BUSINESS LICENSING CRITERIA, PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR OR DESIGNEE TO ADMINISTRATIVELY DENY, SUSPEND OR REVOKE BUSINESS LICENSES AND ALLOWING AN APPEAL FROM SUCH ACTION AND PROVIDING FOR CRIMINAL AND CIVIL PENALTIES UPON CONVICTION OF A VIOLATION IN ORDER TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE BILLINGS COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, the City of Billings is a municipality with self-governing powers as provided by the Montana Constitution, Article XI, Section 6 and MCA sections 7-1-101, -102.

WHEREAS, the powers and authority of a local government unit with self-governing powers shall be liberally construed and every reasonable doubt as to the existence of a local government power or authority shall be resolved in favor of the existence of that power or authority. MCA 7-1-106; see also Montana Constitution, Article XI, Section 4(2).

WHEREAS, the City of Billings is specifically empowered through MCA 7-21-4101 to license all industries, pursuits, professions, and occupations and to impose penalties for failure to comply with such license requirements; and to fix the amount, terms, and manner of issuing and revoking licenses. Further, the City Council may refuse to issue licenses when it may deem it best for the public interests.

WHEREAS, licensed massage therapy is a professional pursuit which can offer the public valuable, useful and efficacious health and therapeutic services;

WHEREAS, the City Council finds the purpose and intent of this article is to combat human trafficking, regulate and protect massage therapy businesses, and safeguard and promote the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Billings, while recognizing that massage therapy is a valuable health care profession that provides benefits to the residents of the City;

WHEREAS, the City Council further recognizes that, unless properly regulated, illicit businesses may operate under the false and misleading pretense of being massage therapy businesses, promote human trafficking and other unlawful activity, and pose a threat to massage therapy businesses and the quality of life in our community;

WHEREAS, the reputation and success of massage therapy businesses are denigrated and undermined by businesses that mask unlawful sexual activities and human trafficking by falsely posing as massage therapy businesses;

WHEREAS the presence of such illicit businesses has an adverse impact on the reputation of Billings and surrounding properties and can result in blight, cultivate further illegal activities, and generally become a public nuisance;

WHEREAS, MCA 37-33-405 of the Massage Therapy Licensing Act requires that the Board of Massage Therapy adopt rules to regulate the profession of massage therapy in order to fulfill its purpose to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state as set forth in Montana Administrative Rule 24.1.101(4)(a)(iv)(L); and

WHEREAS, neither the Massage Therapy Licensing Act nor rules adopted by the Board of Massage Therapy prevent the City from regulating massage therapy businesses, and the City wishes to exercise its regulatory powers as a self-governing unit of local government for the reasons stated above.

NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA:

Section 1. That Article 7-1900 of the Billings, Montana City Code be created and added to read as follows:

Sec. 7-1901 Purpose and intent.

It is the purpose and intent of this article to regulate businesses that purport to be massage or spa facilities in order to safeguard and promote the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the city, while recognizing that massage is a valuable health care professional activity that provides benefits to the residents of the city.

Sec. 7-1902 Definitions.

For purposes of this article, and consistent with the definitions set forth in any applicable sections of the Montana Code Annotated, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the words, terms and phrases set forth in this article shall have the following meanings:

- a. "Applicant" means an individual acting on behalf of a massage or spa facility to apply for a license.
- b. "Board" means the board of massage therapy provided for in MCA 2-15-1782.
- c. "Client" means an individual who enters into an agreement for massage therapy or spa services to be provided within the city for a fee, income, or compensation of any kind.
- d. "Control" means the legal power to direct or materially influence the direction of the management and policies of an applicant, licensee or controlling person, in any way.
- e. "Controlling person" means a person directly or indirectly exercising control or having the potential to exercise control of an applicant, licensee, or other controlling person.
- f. "DOLI" means the Montana Department of Labor and Industry provided for in MCA 2-15-1701.
- g. "Dormitory" means a location, other than a residence, where individuals working for a massage or spa facility live or engage in communal sleeping, as potentially

evidenced by, but not limited to, witness statements or the presence of beds, bedding material, mattresses or cots.

- h. "Employee" means any person who performs any service at a massage or spa facility on a full-time, part-time, or contract basis, whether or not the person is designated an employee, independent contractor or otherwise. Employee does not include a person exclusively engaged in the repair or maintenance of the facility or the delivery goods to the licensee.
- i. "Erotic parlor" means a business or facility, other than those defined in Sec. 27-611(c)(10), that entices clients through advertising or other business practices directed toward sexual desires, lust or passions.
- j. "For compensation" means the exchange of massage or spa services directly or indirectly for money, goods, services or other valuable consideration. Massage or spa services are provided "for compensation" even if offered nominally free but in conjunction with other services or goods provided for compensation.
- k. "License" means a license issued by the City of Billings authorizing the holder to operate a massage or spa facility in accordance with this ordinance.
- l. "Licensee" means the person holding a city massage or spa facility license.
- m. "License administrator" is the City Administrator or his/her designee, including but not limited to code enforcement officers.
- n. "Manager" is an individual authorized by the licensee to exercise overall operational control of the massage or spa facility, to supervise employees, or to fulfill any of the functions required of a manager by this article.
- o. "Massage or spa facility" means any business where any massage, massage therapy or spa services are practiced, administered, or advertised in exchange for compensation. The term "massage or spa facility" shall not include:
 - 1. A place of business where a licensed massage therapist practices as a solo practitioner who is in compliance with all other applicable city code provisions as well as sections 7-1910 and 7-1911 of this article, and;
 - a) Does not use a business name or assumed name; or
 - b) Uses a business name or an assumed name and provides the massage therapist's full legal name or license number in each advertisement and each time the business name or assumed name appears in writing; and
 - c) Does not maintain or operate a table shower as defined in this section.
 - 2. A place of business that limits its business to the following practices performed by persons who:
 - a) Do not claim expressly or implicitly to be massage therapists; and
 - b) Limit their work to one or more of the practices listed in MCA 37-33-404(4) or (5); and
 - c) Is recognized by or meets the established requirements of either a professional organization or credentialing agency that represents or certifies the respective practice based on a minimum level of training, demonstration of competence, and adherence to ethical standards.

3. Training rooms of public and private schools accredited by the state board of education or approved by the state regulatory body charged with the responsibility of approving private occupational schools.
 4. Training rooms of recognized professional or amateur athletic teams.
 5. Offices, clinics, and other facilities at which medical professionals in any of the practices listed in MCA 37-33-404(1) licensed by the state of Montana, or any other state, provide massage services to the public in the ordinary course of their medical profession.
 6. Medical facilities licensed by the state.
 7. Barber shops, beauty salons, and other facilities at which barbers, cosmetologists, and aestheticians licensed by the state that provide massage services to the public only in the ordinary course of those other licensed professions.
 8. Bona fide athletic clubs not engaged in the practice of providing massage services to their members or to the public for substantial compensation; for purposes of this definition, if an athletic club does not receive more than 10 percent of its gross income providing massages to its members or to the public such shall be prima facie evidence that it does not receive substantial compensation for such services.
 9. A place of business where a person offers to perform or performs massage therapy:
 - a) For not more than 72 hours in any six-month period; and
 - b) As part of a public or charity event, the primary purpose of which is not to provide massage therapy.
 10. Any other business specifically exempted under MCA 37-33-404.
 11. In accordance with section 7-1914, the license administrator may promulgate additional rules related to these exemptions, including rules that may result in a finding that a practice is no longer exempt.
- p. "Massage therapy" means massage therapy as defined in MCA 37-33-403(4).
- q. "Massage therapist" means a person who has fulfilled the requirements to obtain a valid license issued by the Board of Massage Therapy as defined in MCA 37-33-403(3).
- r. "Nudity" shall have the meaning defined by Billings Code Sec. 27-611(c)(9).
- s. "Operator" means any person who operates and is responsible for the day-to-day activities of a massage or spa facility.
- t. "Owner" means any person who has any direct or indirect ownership interest in a massage or spa facility.
- u. "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, limited partnership, limited liability company, governmental subdivision, agency, or public or private organization of any character.
- v. "Sexual Act" means sexual contact, sexual intrusion, or sexual penetration as defined in MCA 45-2-101(67) and (68).
- w. "Spa" means a business that offers or engages in personal services for compensation that call for the patron to fully or partially disrobe, such as, but not limited to, massage, body wraps, hydro mineral wraps, body polish, body scrub, body wash, baths and hydro tub soak.

- x. "Table Shower" means an apparatus for the bathing or massaging of a person on a table or in a tub.

Sec. 7-1903 Other licenses, taxes, and laws generally.

The license and fee required by this article for massage or spa facilities replaces the regular business, occupation and profession tax normally assessed under Billings Code Sec. 13-423, but are in addition to any other applicable licenses, permits, or fees required by the city, county or state. A massage or spa facility licensed under this article shall comply with all other applicable ordinances and laws, including city zoning ordinances.

Sec. 7-1904 Massage or spa facility license required.

- a. It is unlawful for any person to operate a massage or spa facility in the City of Billings without a valid massage or spa facility license issued by the city as required by this article.
- b. It is unlawful for any individual to practice massage therapy for compensation in the City of Billings without first obtaining and maintaining a valid massage therapy license as required under MCA 37-33-501.
- c. Students and instructors who meet the requirements of MCA 37-33-404(2) and (3) are exempted from the requirements of this section.

Sec. 7-1905 Application for massage or spa facility license.

- a. Any person desiring to obtain a massage or spa facility license shall make written application to the city finance department.
- b. The application shall be verified and accompanied by the application fee.
- c. Confidential information, as defined by MCA 2-6-1002, provided in the massage or spa facility license application that is specifically requested to be kept confidential by the applicant shall not be made publicly available except to the extent required by applicable law.
- d. All applicants shall provide the following information under oath:
 - 1. The full name and any aliases currently or formerly used by the applicant;
 - 2. The name, date of birth, place of birth, race (optional), sex (optional), address of physical residence, mailing address (if different), telephone numbers, and email address of the applicant;
 - 3. If the applicant has resided at the current address for less than two years, two previous residential addresses immediately prior to the current residential address of the applicant and the dates of residence at each;
 - 4. Business, occupation or employment history of the applicant for the five years immediately preceding the date of application;
 - 5. The name, physical address, mailing address, email address, and telephone numbers of the proposed licensee and type of business organization (individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, etc.). If the proposed licensee is a partnership, corporation, or limited liability company, the

- same information required of an individual applicant in subsections (1), (2), (3), (14), (15), (16) and (17) is required of all partners, officers, directors, managers, members, or persons owning or beneficially owning more than five percent of the common or preferred stock, real or personal property, or other indicia of ownership of the proposed licensee or the licensee's property;
6. The proposed address and name or names of the premises upon which the massage or spa facility for which a license is sought will be located and any name under which the licensee plans to conduct business ("dba" name);
 7. The hours that the massage or spa facility will be open to the public and such times that the exterior door or doors may be locked as allowed under section 7-1911, if applicable;
 8. A list of services to be provided at the facility;
 9. The name, physical address, email address, and telephone numbers of the owner of the premises that the massage or spa facility is to be located and satisfactory proof of the right to possession of such premises;
 10. A certificate of good standing from Montana, or other state of incorporation or registration, if the proposed licensee is a corporation, partnership or limited liability company;
 11. Information as to whether the applicant, licensee, or any partner, officer, director, manager, member, or person owning or beneficially owning more than five percent of the common or preferred stock, real or personal property, or other indicia of ownership of the proposed licensee or licensee's property has, within five years preceding the date of application, been convicted of, or placed on diversion or deferred judgment for any felony, financial crime, or sexual offense and an explanation of all such convictions, diversions, or deferred judgments (a conviction or other criminal sanction is not an automatic bar to obtaining a massage or spa facility license);
 12. Information as to whether the applicant, proposed licensee, or any partner, officer, director, manager, member or person owning or beneficially owning more than five percent of the common or preferred stock, real or personal property, or other indicia of ownership of the licensee or licensee's property is currently under indictment, charge or information for any felony, financial crime, or sexual offense and an explanation of all such allegations (an indictment, charge or information is not an automatic bar to obtaining a massage or spa facility license);
 13. A statement as to whether the applicant, proposed licensee, or any partner, officer, director, manager, member or person owning or beneficially owning more than five percent of the common or preferred stock, real or personal property, or other indicia of ownership of the proposed licensee or licensee's property is a registered sex offender;
 14. Information as to whether the applicant, proposed licensee, or any partner, officer, director, manager, member or person owning or beneficially owning more than five percent of the common or preferred stock, real or personal property, or other indicia of ownership of the proposed licensee has ever been refused any similar license or permit, or has had any similar license or permit

- issued to such individual or business in the city or elsewhere revoked or suspended, and the reason for the refusal, revocation, or suspension;
15. A state fingerprint background check in accordance with requirements described by the Montana Department of Justice website at <https://dojmt.gov/enforcement/background-checks/> (license renewals under section 7-1916 do not require another background check if the applicant certifies that all information contained in the background check remains unchanged from the previous year);
 16. A statement by the applicant that he or she is familiar with the provisions of this article, all statements made in the application are true and correct, and the applicant is in compliance and will remain in compliance with all requirements of this article while the license is in effect; and
 17. Any applicant intending to practice massage therapy must provide a copy of the massage therapy license issued by the DOLI pursuant to MCA 37-33-501.

Sec. 7-1906 Requirements to obtain massage or spa facility license.

- a. To receive and retain a license to operate a massage or spa facility, all applicants and licensees must meet the following requirements:
 1. The required fees as established by the city council must be paid;
 2. The application must be complete and provide all information required by section 7-1905;
 3. The applicant must not have knowingly made a false or misleading statement of a material fact in the application;
 4. The applicant must be at least eighteen years of age;
 5. The operation of the massage or spa facility as proposed, if licensed, must comply with all applicable building, fire, health, zoning and other city, county, and state laws. Any massage or spa facility operating out of a residence must meet all home occupation requirements of the Billings, Montana City Code.
 6. The applicant must provide a copy of the license issued by the DOLI pursuant to MCA 37-33-501 for any massage therapist who will be working as a massage therapist at the massage or spa facility.
- b. For applicants and licensees who fall into any of the categories listed below, the license administrator may conduct an investigation to determine whether a massage and spa facility license should or should not be issued or retained in the reasonable discretion of the license administrator. In exercising his or her discretion the license administrator shall consider the purpose and intent of this article; the extent to which the applicant or licensee has or has not complied with the requirements of this article; and any other factors reasonably relevant to the health, safety and welfare of the city and its citizens.
 1. The applicant or licensee has been convicted in any jurisdiction of a felony, financial crimes, or sexual offenses within five years immediately preceding

the date of the application (for purposes of this section the term “conviction” shall include entering into pretrial diversion or a deferred prosecution agreement, being placed on a deferred judgment, or being adjudged guilty upon entering a plea of no contest);

2. The applicant or licensee is currently under indictment, charge, or information for any felony, financial crimes, or sexual offenses;
 3. The applicant or licensee is a registered sex offender with any federal, state or local government;
 4. The applicant, licensee, or any business associated with the applicant or licensee had a similar type of license in any jurisdiction previously suspended or revoked for good cause within five years immediately preceding the date of the filing of the application;
 5. The applicant is applying for a license to locate a massage or spa facility in a location where the license for a previous massage or spa facility has been revoked or suspended for cause within the last 24 months; or
 6. The character, record, or reputation of the applicant or his or her agent or principal or of the licensee is such that a potential violation of this article may occur if a license is issued.
- c. If the proposed or existing licensee is a partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other type of organization, all persons having financial interest in the applicant shall meet the requirements described in subsections (a) through (b) above. Financial interest includes any board member, manager, member, officer, director, or officer of the subject organization and any stockholder or other owner holding or having a beneficial interest in more than five percent of the stock, real or personal property, or other indicia of ownership of property of the organization.
- d. The license administrator shall be empowered to place reasonable conditions and restrictions upon any massage or spa facility license. The licensee shall have the right to appeal any such conditions or restrictions in accordance with the provisions of section 7-1913(b).

Sec. 7-1907 Review by other departments.

Prior to the issuance of any massage or spa facility license, the corresponding application may be submitted to other departments, including the Police Department, for review. The Police Department shall provide information as to whether the applicant and each of the individuals required to be listed in the application meet the requirements of section 7-1906 and any other requirements of this article. For this section 7-1907 the Police Department shall only provide information and shall not approve or disapprove of any application.

Sec. 7-1908 Issuance.

- a. If after any necessary investigation, the license administrator finds that the applicant, licensee, and each of the persons required to be listed in the corresponding license application meet the requirements of this article and any other requirements of the Billings, Montana City Code, then the license application shall be approved within 30 days following receipt of the completed massage or spa facility license application. In the event of a denial, the license administrator shall explain in writing the reason for the denial.
- b. The license administrator may place reasonable conditions or restrictions upon any massage or spa facility on a case by case basis. The licensee shall have the right to appeal any such conditions or restrictions in accordance with the provisions of section 7-1913(b).

Sec. 7-1909 Temporary license.

The license administrator may issue a temporary massage or spa facility license upon receipt of a complete license application involving the sale or change in ownership of a business. Such license shall be issued for 30 days, and renewed every 30 days until approval or denial of the massage or spa facility license.

Sec. 7-1910 Prohibitions during operation.

It shall be unlawful for any licensee, owner, operator, manager, or employee to:

- a. Operate the facility in violation of any provision of this article or without a valid massage and spa facility license or with such a license that has been suspended, revoked, or expired.
- b. Be open for business for the practice of massage therapy without a massage therapist on the premises who is licensed in accordance with MCA 37-33-501 and -502.
- c. Except as provided herein, permit a licensed massage or spa facility to be used as a dormitory or for housing, sheltering, or harboring any person(s), or as living or sleeping quarters for any person(s). The owner and family members of a massage or spa facility operated as a home occupation, as defined by Article 13 of Billings, Montana City Code, are exempt from this prohibition.
- d. Massage any other person, or give or administer any spa, bath or baths, including table showers, in a manner intended to arouse, appeal to, or gratify the sexual response or desire of either party. In no case shall the employee intentionally touch, offer to touch, or agree to touch genitalia of the client.
- e. Allow any employee to provide massage therapy or other massage service without being fully clothed. For purposes of this subsection, clothing shall be of a fully opaque, nontransparent material that shall not expose the employee's genitalia or substantially expose the employee's undergarments.
- f. Require client nudity as part of any massage service without the client's prior consent nor permit any client nudity without draping and treatment in a way that ensures the safety, comfort, and privacy of the client.

- g. Place, publish or distribute, or cause to be placed, published or distributed any misleading or false advertising that would reasonably suggest to prospective clients that any service is available other than those services described in this article, nor employ language in the text of any advertising that would reasonably suggest to a prospective client that any service is available other than those permitted under this article, nor advertise in a manner that is inaccurate, deceptive, or sexually suggestive, either explicitly or implicitly.
- h. Use or possess for massage or spa services provided for compensation, adult-oriented merchandise of a sexual nature, including sex toys, sexual aids, vaginal or anal lubricant, or any contraceptive item, in any part of a massage or spa facility, provided that nothing in this subsection shall restrict use or possession of such items for non-commercial purposes in a private residence, including one used for a home occupation in accordance with Article 13 of Billings, Montana City Code.
- i. Permit any individual, including a client, student, contractor, or employee, to engage in or solicit any sexual contact or sexual intercourse, as those terms are defined in 45-2-101, MCA, with a client, when such act or solicitation is related to the practice of massage therapy or spa services in the massage or spa facility.
- j. Permit any person to make an agreement with an employee to engage in any sexual conduct for compensation, whether consensual or otherwise, in the massage or spa facility or at a different location, in violation of Billings, Montana City Code or state law.
- k. Refuse to provide access to government inspectors or law enforcement personnel who provide proof of identity, conceal persons in the facility, refuse to provide identification to inspectors or law enforcement, remain behind locked doors in the facility during an inspection, or elude or attempt to elude inspectors or law enforcement by exiting side or back doors.
- l. Provide massage therapy or permit anyone to perform massage therapy without a valid massage therapist license issued under Billings city code and/or state law.
- m. Operate an erotic parlor within the City as defined in this article.

Sec. 7-1911 Requirements during operation.

Every massage or spa facility licensee shall:

- a. Maintain a current list of employees and independent contractors on site with start dates of employment or contracted service, full legal name, nationality, date of birth, place of birth, home address and telephone number, employment position, passport number (if a foreign national), date first began service, and the date when services were terminated, if applicable.
- b. Maintain a copy of each massage therapist's Montana license issued pursuant to the Massage Therapy and Licensing Act.
- c. Shall keep a complete set of books and records for the business on site at the facility. The records shall also include a log of all massage therapy administered at the facility. The log shall contain the following information: date, time and type of each massage therapy administered, and name of employee administering the massage therapy. The log shall be retained for a minimum of one year following

any massage therapy. The log and other books and records shall be subject to inspection upon request by the inspector during normal business hours.

- d. Operate or conduct business under only the designation specified in the license.
- e. Keep all interior and exterior doors unlocked while the massage or spa facility is open for business except as follows:
 1. Restroom doors may be locked.
 2. Exterior doors may remain locked if permitted by applicable fire, building and zoning codes and if the facility is occupied by a single employee or independent contractor.
 3. Internal doors may be locked to protect confidential client or business information.
 4. A variance from the requirements of this subsection may be granted in the discretion of the license administrator upon written request of the licensee and evidence demonstrating that a variance is necessary for the security of employees, contractors, or property of the licensee and would not be inconsistent with the purpose and intent of this article.
- f. Immediately open any locked door, including any exterior door, upon request by an inspector or law enforcement officer who provides proof of identity.
- g. On all massage and spa facilities with windows or other glass adjacent to an entrance, be required to have and maintain a sufficient portion of clear glass that is not painted over, darkened, or blocked by any cloth or obstruction at the entrance to such establishment so that the front area where patrons are greeted is visible from the outside. A variance from the requirements of this subsection may be granted in the discretion of the license administrator upon written request of the licensee and evidence demonstrating that the variance is reasonable in light of the cost of compliance or other factors and would not be inconsistent with the purposes and intent of this article.
- h. List the physical address of the facility in any advertisement.
- i. Provide a written list of prices for all services (through signage or written materials) of the massage or spa facility available to all prospective customers.
- j. Operate only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- k. Upon the sale or transfer of any ownership interest in the stock, membership interest, assets, or other indicia of ownership of a massage or spa facility, the license issued pursuant to this article shall be null and void, and a new application and license shall be required.

Sec. 7-1912 Inspections.

- a. Any person operating a business within the City of Billings is subject to reasonable inspection provided in section 13-432 to determine compliance with all laws and ordinances, including with this article.
- b. Each massage or spa facility shall conspicuously display on the premises the license of each massage therapist working at the business or, for a mobile practice, make the license readily available as required by MCA 37-33-406(1), or as amended.

- c. The license administrator, a designee of the Board of Massage Therapy, or a law enforcement officer may enter a massage therapy business at any time during business hours to determine compliance with any law under that person's jurisdiction, including but not limited to this article or provisions of the Massage Therapy and Licensing Act.
- d. All rooms, cabinets, and storage areas shall be subject to inspection and any locked rooms, cabinets, or storage areas shall be promptly opened for inspection.
- e. Each massage or spa facility shall make the complete set of books and records and log of all massage therapy administered at the facility as required by this article available for inspection without unreasonable delay.
- f. Upon request, all owners, managers, massage therapists, employees, contractors or persons occupying the facility other than clients shall present identification and shall not elude identification.

Sec. 7-1913 Denial, suspension or revocation of license.

- a. The license administrator may immediately suspend a massage or spa facility license with a hearing to be scheduled within thirty (30) days when the director finds that:
 - 1. The licensee has violated any of the provisions of this article; or
 - 2. That the qualifications set forth in the application utilized to obtain a massage or spa facility license were materially inaccurate or incomplete or likely obtained through fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; or
 - 3. The state has revoked the massage therapy license of the licensee, the applicant, the manager, or substantially all of the employees or contractors of the facility providing massage or spa services; or
 - 4. The licensee willfully failed to disclose any information as required in section 7-1905; or
 - 5. The licensee knowingly permitted a person to perform massage therapy when licensee should reasonably know that such person is not licensed in accordance with section 7-1904 and MCA 37-33-501 of the Massage Therapy Licensing Act when such license is required; or
 - 6. A pattern of credible facts emerges that the facility is attempting to operate an erotic parlor to engage in a prostitution enterprise or to commit other crimes whether or not there is a violation of any other specific law, rule, or code; or
 - 7. The licensee failed to permit an inspection in accordance with section 7-1912 any time the facility is occupied or open for business.
- b. Any person aggrieved by any decision of the license administrator concerning the issuance, refusal to issue, suspension or revocation of a massage or spa facility license may appeal that action by filing a written notice of appeal with the city clerk within twenty (20) days of personal service or mailing of the written notice of revocation, with the manner of service to be determined in the discretion of the clerk.

All appeals will be informally heard by an administrative hearing officer appointed by the city. Upon receipt of an appeal, the administrative hearing officer will schedule a time and place for hearing such appeal.

The city clerk will give written notice to the appellant of the time and place of hearing by causing the notice to be personally served or deposited in the United States mail at Billings, Montana, postage prepaid, addressed to the appellant at the address provided on the written notice of appeal. The administrative hearing officer will have authority to make an initial determination of all questions raised on appeal.

The appeal shall clearly state the applicable basis for the appeal. The scope of the appeal hearing pursuant to this section shall be limited to those issues raised by the appellant in the written appeal, as submitted. The rules of evidence and civil procedure shall not apply to such a hearing. The original decision of the license administrator shall remain in effect during the period of appeal.

After a decision by the hearing officer, an aggrieved person or licensee may appeal to the City Administrator who shall review the written decision of the hearing officer. No additional hearing shall be permitted. The City Administrator may affirm or reverse the hearing officer decision. The decision of the City Administrator is final.

Any massage or spa facility license issued under this article is subject to suspension or revocation by the license administrator or his/her designee for violation of any provision of this article, violations of city, state or federal law, or for any grounds that would warrant the denial of the issuance of the license in the first instance.

When any massage or spa facility license has been revoked for violation of this article, no massage or spa facility license shall be granted to the following persons for a period of one year for the operation of a massage or spa facility in the premises described in the revoked license: the person who held the revoked license; the licensee's spouse; any person who held or holds more than a five percent ownership interest in any corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other organization that holds or held the revoked license; and any corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other organization in which any person who holds or formerly held the revoked license has more than a five percent ownership interest. Any additional massage or spa facility license for any other massage or spa facility may be revoked or suspended in the discretion of the City Administrator for up to one year if held by the person whose license was revoked for violation of this article or by a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other organization in which that person holds a controlling interest.

Sec. 7-1914 Supplemental Provisions.

The license administrator, at his or her discretion, may promulgate rules for:

- a. Approving professional organizations or credentialing agencies pursuant to section 7-1902(o);
- b. Verifying the exempt status of a business or facility in accordance with section 7-1902(o) and the intent of this article;
- c. Exempting additional practices from the requirements of this article; and
- d. Determining that a practice is no longer exempt under section 7-1902(o) or any other provision of this article if there is a continued pattern of criminal behavior, including sexual misconduct, or criminal intent that is related to human trafficking disguised as a legitimate exemption.

Sec. 7-1915 Effective date.

The requirements of this article shall be effective immediately upon the effective date of this ordinance. Any facility subject to the requirements of section 7-1904(a) shall submit an application pursuant to section 7-1905 within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this ordinance.

Sec. 7-1916 Renewal application.

Every holder of a massage or spa facility license required by this article shall apply to renew his or her license every year. The renewal application shall include an update on any and all information set forth on the initial application and the renewal fee as established by the City Council. The licensee shall submit the application at least 45 days before the license expiration date. If the licensee fails to timely submit a complete application (including updated information and renewal fee), the current license shall be null and void on the expiration date stated on the license.

Sec. 7-1917 Land use and zoning requirements.

The premises and the property on which the premises occupied by a massage or spa facility are located shall conform to all applicable land use and zoning requirements.

Sec. 7-1918 Massage facility owner and operator responsibility for employee acts.

For the purpose of determining compliance with this article, any owner, operator, or licensee of a massage or spa facility shall be responsible for the conduct of all employees, independent contractors, unpaid volunteers and other persons who provide massage therapy or spa services on the premises or through arrangements with the massage or spa facility. All persons working in or for the massage or spa facility shall be deemed to be under the control of the owner, operator and licensee, and any act or omission of such persons constituting a violation of this article shall be deemed to be the act or omission of the owner, operator, and licensee for purposes of enforcing this article.

Sec. 7-1919 Violation and penalty, affirmative defense, and remedies.

- a) Any person who violates any requirement of section 7-1904 and 7-1910 shall upon conviction be guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine of up to \$500.00 and/or incarceration for a term of up to six (6) months. Each such person shall be guilty of a separate offense for each and every day during any portion of which any violation of any provision of this article is committed, continued or permitted by any such person.

It shall be an affirmative defense under this article for an employee that such employee was under duress or coerced into violating a provision of this article. This affirmative defense is not available to any person who created or participated in creating the duress or coercion or who knew or should have known of the existence of the duress or coercion.

- b) A victim of human trafficking as provided in state or federal law shall not be criminally liable for any violation of this ordinance committed as a direct result of or incident to being trafficked.
- c) Any other violation of this article shall be a municipal infraction and persons found to have committed a violation shall be subject to civil penalties as set forth in section 18-1304 of this Code. Each such person shall be guilty of a separate offense for each and every day during any portion of which any violation of any provision of this article is committed, continued or permitted by any such person.
- d) Any massage or spa facility that fails to comply with the requirements of this article shall be deemed to be creating a public nuisance and shall be subject to penalties as provided in section 18-1304 and shall further be subject to civil action to restrain or abate the nuisance as authorized in sections 18-301 et seq. as the city deems appropriate. Such ability of the city to prosecute and/or enjoin or abate is in addition to any other remedies available to the city at law or in equity.

Sec. 7-1920 Remedies cumulative.

The remedies provided in this article are cumulative and do not preclude any other available remedy at law or in equity.

Sec. 7-1921 Changes in law.

When reference is made in this article to any local law or regulation or to any state or federal statute, regulation or other law, the reference includes any subsequent amendment or superseding provision.

Section 2. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this ordinance that may be given effect without the invalid provisions or

application, and, to this end, the provisions of these ordinances are declared to be severable.

Section 3. Repealer. All resolutions, ordinances, and sections of the City Code inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective sixty (60) days after second reading and final adoption as provided by law.

APPROVED on first reading this ____ day of _____, 2021.

ADOPTED and APPROVED on second reading this ____ day of _____, 2021.

CITY OF BILLINGS

BY: _____

William A. Cole, Mayor

Attest:

BY: _____

Denise R. Bohlman, City Clerk

4.12.21 FIRST READING DRAFT