

**2015 SESSION – LEGISLATIVE IDEAS THAT AFFECT LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

(April 7, 2015)

NO.	DESCRIPTION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
1	Amend Class 3 Ag Land Statutes: MCA, 15-6-133. <i>Heidecker</i> decision.	Heidecker decision eliminated the department's ability to determine agricultural land classification based on subdivision covenants and to classify such subdivisions strictly according to use.
2	PTAP Reform	Make it simpler for taxpayers to apply for the four property tax assistance programs by allowing an automated application process that does not need to be completed/submitted every single year; and create a single definition of the income criteria for all programs. These four are 1) Property Tax Assistance Program (PTAP); 2) Extended Property Tax Assistance Program (EPTAP); 3) Disabled American Veteran Program (DAV); and 4) Elderly Homeowner/Renter Credit (2EC)
3	TIF Reform	To address procedural concerns that have occurred with TIF districts causing apparent "double taxation" and lack of transparency in the remittance agreement process. Part I - require that TIF funds remitted back to schools must be treated as budgeted ad valorem tax revenue in order to offset mill levies in those school districts. Part II - amend remittance section of TIF statute to require remittances to "all" taxing jurisdictions rather than just to "any" taxing jurisdiction so that all taxing jurisdictions are treated equally in any remittance process. Amending section 7-15-4291, MCA (e.g. "Any portion of the increment remitted to a school must be treated as budgeted ad valorem taxes and used to reduce ad valorem taxes by the school district receiving the remittance and may not reduce the future levy authority. This subsection applies to all tax increment financing districts created after December 31, 1979).
4	Local Govt. Responsibility for Local Tax Districts and Fees	To ensure the correct calculation of local government fees by allowing the local government to establish the records for property calculation. Currently, it is the practice of the department to calculate all fees for the local governments. This has led to errors for the local governments. The department seeks to ensure that the local government more closely monitors the fees that they establish for their operations.