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 **Bureau of Business and Economic Research**

Senate Recommendation, 4/11/13

The purpose of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) “is to serve the general public, as well as people in business, labor, and government, by providing an understanding of the economic environment in which Montanans live and work.” Toward that end, the Bureau conducts research on the “statewide and substate economies of Montana as well as the Western Region of the United States. It “monitors important industries activities in Montana,” conducts survey research, and reports the findings of its research through publications, the electronic media, and seminars. Perhaps its most visible activity is the publication of the *Montana Business Quarterly*.

Members of the BBER teach in the School of business Administration, the College of Forestry and the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, the BBER funds graduate students in the School of Business administration and the School of Forestry.

The BBER employs several people who receive state funding. The director, a tenured professor, is 90% state funded. State funding accounts for half or more of three research positions. In addition, state funding accounts for 50% of a web developer and programmer, 90% of a marketing director, 87% of a communications director, and 100% of an office manager. It is not clear from the report whether the program is revenue neutral.

The BBER fulfills its objectives through the research it conducts, the seminars it sponsors, the reports it issues, and the publication of the *Montana Business Quarterly*. It interacts with various state agencies, federal agencies, and private organizations.

ECOS does not consider the Center controversial and recommends continuation.