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First Montana tax study is available

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The first in a series of staff reports on the Montana Tax Study is being made available to the public this week by the Montana Legislative Council in Helena.

The report, which is neither approved nor disapproved by the Taxation Subcommittee, is titled "A Primer on State and Local Taxation." It was prepared by Dr. John H. Wicks, assistant professor of economics at the University of Montana.

Dr. Wicks is a member of a seven man task force selected by the subcommittee for the study of Montana's tax structure. Others on the committee are Dr. Robert F. Wallace of the UM in Missoula, Dr. Layton S. Thompson and Maurice C. Taylor of the Montana State University faculty in Bozeman, Dr. William D. Diehl and Howard H. Lord of the State Board of Equalization in Helena, and Robert W. Worcester of the Federal Reserve Branch Bank in Helena.

The tax study is supported in part by the UM Foundation and the MSU Research and Endowment Foundation.

The series of staff reports are intended to provide the general public, the Montana Legislature, interest groups and business people with the basic facts on Montana taxation and where it stands in comparison with other states.

Each report will be published for general distribution, but because there is no money available to cover printing costs, $1.25 must accompany each order for a copy. Copies are available from the Office of the Montana Legislative Council, State Capitol, Helena.

Dr. Wicks said his report explains the viewpoints from which economists and legislators generally look at taxes, namely the distribution of the tax burden, and the effects on economic behavior the taxes may have.

His report also discusses the major kinds of taxes in terms of the viewpoints of legislators and economists, it includes a brief survey of the current Montana tax structure and a glossary of tax terms.