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Final architectural plans for new law building will be submitted to the State Board of Education

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Final architectural plans for a law building proposed for construction at Montana State University at an estimated cost of $435,000 will be submitted to the State Board of Education, ex officio Board of Regents, at its meeting in Helena Monday, MSU President H. K. Newburn said.

If the board grants approval, it is expected that bids would be opened at the board's May meeting and construction could start this spring, with the fall of 1961 set as the target date for completion, according to Dr. Newburn.

Construction would be financed by a bond issue, at no direct cost to Montana taxpayers, according to an announcement at the time the board approved preliminary plans for the structure at its January meeting.

Plans call for a split-level structure to be located at the corner of Maurice and Eddy avenues on the MSU campus. The building would be the first in the area to use pre-stressed concrete throughout the structural system, according to the Missoula firm of Fox, Ballas and Barrow, the architects.

Another innovation planned is the use in the student area of an Airson system, in which the T-bar members that support the suspended ceiling are perforated to supply air for heating and ventilating, the architects said.

The overall length of the building would be about 247 feet and the main body of the structure would be about 57 feet wide. The one-story section would house faculty and administration offices while the split level would provide for classrooms, the library, and student facilities.

Although the building would incorporate structural innovations and represent one of the most advanced architectural designs of any law building in the country, it would be in harmony with the contemporary style of neighboring campus buildings, Dean Robert E. Sullivan of the Law School commented. Its brick facing with limestone trim would match the materials used for the Music building across the street, he noted.

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