

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 536

2 INTRODUCED BY R. SOMERVILLE

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
5 TO HIRE A COORDINATOR FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR
6 THE GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY
7 THE GREATER OF EITHER THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX OR AN AMOUNT PROPORTIONATE TO THE
8 INCREASE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING; AMENDING SECTION 20-7-904, MCA; AND PROVIDING
9 AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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13 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Gifted and talented appropriation -- consumer price index increase.**

14 (1) In addition to any legislative appropriation provided to the gifted and talented program in the general
15 appropriations act or the appropriation provided in [section 3], the office of public instruction must receive
16 for distribution to school districts for gifted and talented programs the greater of:

17 (a) the amount appropriated for the gifted and talented program in the prior biennium increased
18 by the consumer price index as determined under 15-30-101(8); or

19 (b) the proportional increase provided for the biennium to the superintendent of public instruction
20 for special education.

21 (2) The amount determined in subsection (1) must be included in the executive budget for the
22 succeeding biennium.

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24 **Section 2.** Section 20-7-904, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"20-7-904. Review and recommendations of proposals.** (1) The policies of the board of public
26 education must ~~assure~~ ensure that program proposals submitted by school districts to the superintendent
27 of public instruction contain:

28 (a) evidence that identification procedures are comprehensive and appropriate;

29 (b) a program description including stated needs and measurable objectives designed to meet those
30 needs;

1 (c) evidence that the activities are appropriate and will serve to achieve the program objectives;
2 and

3 (d) a method to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

4 (2) School districts may request assistance from the staff of the superintendent in formulating
5 program proposals.

6 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall supervise and coordinate the programs for gifted
7 and talented children by:

8 (a) (i) hiring a coordinator to train and support school district personnel on consistent differentiated
9 curriculum and classroom instruction techniques for providing appropriate academic services to and
10 experiences for gifted and talented children;

11 (ii) equitably distributing the gifted and talented funds to the school districts; and

12 (iii) assisting school districts in defining programs and services necessary to meet and maintain
13 accreditation;

14 ~~(a)(b)~~ recommending to the board of public education the adoption of those policies necessary to
15 establish a planned and coordinated program; and

16 ~~(b)(c)~~ establishing a procedure for review and approval of program proposals."
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18 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$350,000 from the general fund
19 to the superintendent of public instruction for each of the fiscal years 2002 and 2003 for distribution to
20 school districts for gifted and talented programs.

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22 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
23 integral part of Title 20, chapter 7, part 9, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 7, part 9, apply to
24 [section 1].

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26 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2001.

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