

HOUSE BILL NO. 488

INTRODUCED BY M. WOLERY, MUSGROVE, ROME, HARRIS, HEDGES, OLSON, RIPLEY, LEHMAN,
TESTER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT CONSOLIDATE TO EACH RETAIN THEIR BASIC ENTITLEMENT FOR 6 YEARS; RETAINING 100 PERCENT OF THE ENTITLEMENT FOR THE FIRST 3 YEARS; REDUCING THE ENTITLEMENT OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS BY 25 PERCENT EACH YEAR; AMENDING SECTION 20-9-311, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 20-9-311, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-9-311. Calculation of average number belonging (ANB). (1) Average number belonging (ANB) must be computed as follows:

(a) compute an average enrollment by adding a count of regularly enrolled full-time pupils who were enrolled as of the first Monday in October of the prior school fiscal year to a count of regularly enrolled pupils on February 1 of the prior school fiscal year, or the next school day if those dates do not fall on a school day, and divide the sum by two; and

(b) multiply the average enrollment calculated in subsection (1)(a) by the sum of the pupil-instruction and the approved pupil-instruction-related days for the current school fiscal year and divide by 180.

(2) For the purpose of calculating ANB under subsection (1), up to 7 approved pupil-instruction-related days may be included in the calculation.

(3) When a school district has approval to operate less than 180 school days under 20-9-806, the total ANB must be calculated in accordance with the provisions of 20-9-805.

(4) Enrollment for a part of a morning session or a part of an afternoon session by a pupil must be counted as enrollment for one-half day.

(5) In calculating the ANB for pupils enrolled in a program established under 20-7-117(1), enrollment at a regular session of the program for at least 2 hours of either a morning or an afternoon

1 session must be counted as one-half pupil for ANB purposes. The ANB for a kindergarten student may not
2 exceed one-half for each kindergarten pupil.

3 (6) When a pupil has been absent, with or without excuse, for more than 10 consecutive school
4 days, the pupil may not be included in the enrollment count used in the calculation of the ANB unless the
5 pupil resumes attendance prior to the day of the enrollment count.

6 (7) The enrollment of prekindergarten pupils, as provided in 20-7-117, may not be included in the
7 ANB calculations.

8 (8) The average number belonging of the regularly enrolled, full-time pupils for the public schools
9 of a district must be based on the aggregate of all the regularly enrolled, full-time pupils attending the
10 schools of the district, except that when:

11 (a) (i) a school of the district is located more than 20 miles beyond the incorporated limits of a city
12 or town located in the district and at least 20 miles from any other school of the district, the number of
13 regularly enrolled, full-time pupils of the school must be calculated separately for ANB purposes and the
14 district must receive a basic entitlement for the school calculated separately from the other schools of the
15 district;

16 (ii) a school of the district is located more than 20 miles from any other school of the district and
17 incorporated territory is not involved in the district, the number of regularly enrolled, full-time pupils of the
18 school must be calculated separately for ANB purposes and the district must receive a basic entitlement
19 for the school calculated separately from the other schools of the district;

20 (iii) the superintendent of public instruction approves an application not to aggregate when
21 conditions exist affecting transportation, such as poor roads, mountains, rivers, or other obstacles to
22 travel, or when any other condition exists that would result in an unusual hardship to the pupils of the
23 school if they were transported to another school, the number of regularly enrolled, full-time pupils of the
24 school must be calculated separately for ANB purposes and the district must receive a basic entitlement
25 for the school calculated separately from the other schools of the district; or

26 (iv) two or more elementary districts consolidate or annex under the provisions of 20-6-203,
27 20-6-205, or 20-6-208; two or more high school districts consolidate or annex under the provisions of
28 20-6-315 or 20-6-317; or two or more K-12 districts consolidate or annex under Title 20, chapter 6, part
29 4, the ANB and the basic entitlements of the component districts must be calculated separately for a
30 period of 3 years following the consolidation or annexation; Each district shall retain a percentage of its

1 basic entitlement for 3 additional years as follows:

2 (A) 75% of the basic entitlement for the fourth year;

3 (B) 50% of the basic entitlement for the fifth year; and

4 (C) 25% of the basic entitlement for the sixth year.

5 (b) a junior high school has been approved and accredited as a junior high school, all of the
6 regularly enrolled, full-time pupils of the junior high school must be considered as high school district pupils
7 for ANB purposes;

8 (c) a middle school has been approved and accredited, all pupils below the 7th grade must be
9 considered elementary school pupils for ANB purposes and the 7th and 8th grade pupils must be
10 considered high school pupils for ANB purposes; or

11 (d) a school has not been accredited by the board of public education, the regularly enrolled,
12 full-time pupils attending the nonaccredited school are not eligible for average number belonging calculation
13 purposes, nor will an average number belonging for the nonaccredited school be used in determining the
14 BASE funding program for the district.

15 (9) The district shall provide the superintendent of public instruction with semiannual reports of
16 school attendance, absence, and enrollment for regularly enrolled students, using a format determined by
17 the superintendent."

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19 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2001.

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