58th Legislature SJ0020.02

1	SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20
2	INTRODUCED BY MAHLUM
3	
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA ENCOURAGING HIGH SCHOOLS TO OFFER INSTRUCTION IN CONSUMER EDUCATION AND
6	RELATIONSHIP SKILL-BASED MARRIAGE AND INTERPERSONAL AND WORKPLACE EDUCATION AND
7	MEDIATION.
8	
9	WHEREAS, the breakup of marriages and the increase in cohabitation continue to be ongoing in
10	Montana; and
11	WHEREAS, half of all recent marriages involve at least one spouse who has previously been married;
12	and
13	WHEREAS, there are different types of families in Montana today, such as the traditional two-parent
14	family, single-parent families, blended families, and grandparents raising grandchildren; and
15	WHEREAS, poor personal financial management contributes to problems in marriages and interpersonal
16	and workplace relationships; and
17	WHEREAS, the number one disruptive factor in the workplace is problems in the marriage relationship;
18	and
19	WHEREAS, although parents are the first and primary teachers of their children, schools may also
20	determine that they have a responsibility to help prepare students for the responsibilities of marriage, family, and
21	interpersonal and workplace relationships; and
22	WHEREAS, establishing positive marital, interpersonal, and workplace relationships is a vital component
23	in maximizing an individual's opportunities for success in marriage and at work.
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25	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
26	THE STATE OF MONTANA:
27	That the Legislature encourage the Office of Public Instruction, local boards of trustees, and local high
28	schools to develop a course or curriculum for an existing course that includes instruction in consumer education
29	and relationship skill-based marriage and interpersonal and workplace education and mediation, in order to
30	better prepare students for the responsibilities of marriage, family, parenting, and work.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Public Instruction, local boards of trustees, and local high schools carefully consider the merits of offering consumer education and relationship skill-based marriage and interpersonal and workplace education and mediation to students in BY THE END OF their senior year of high school so as to maximize the likelihood that students will be better prepared to meet the responsibilities of marriage, family, parenting, and work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Public Instruction be encouraged to report progress in the development of these courses or curriculum to the Governor and the Governor's Council on Families on or before June 30, of each year beginning in 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for distribution to every high school district and K-12 district in the state.

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