

HOUSE BILL NO. 462

INTRODUCED BY R. BUZZAS

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
5 HUMAN SERVICES TO INSTITUTE AND MANAGE A SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM OF COORDINATION,  
6 TRAINING, AND GRANTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAINING CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, FAMILY  
7 MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN THE PREPARATION OF  
8 3-YEAR-OLD AND 4- YEAR-OLD CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THE CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE  
9 AT KINDERGARTEN; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT TO ADOPT RULES; PROVIDING AN  
10 APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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14 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Department to manage early childhood school readiness program**  
15 **-- implementation -- grant assistance -- rulemaking required.** (1) The department shall institute and manage  
16 a school readiness program of coordination, training, and grants for the purpose of training child care providers  
17 licensed pursuant to this part, family members and caregivers, and early childhood educators in the preparation  
18 of 3-year-old and 4-year-old children and their families for the children's attendance at kindergarten.

- 19 (2) To implement the program required by subsection (1), the department shall:
- 20 (a) determine the availability of private and public funding and services available for the purposes of
  - 21 the program required by subsection (1) and request and coordinate that funding and those services;
  - 22 (b) provide information to child care providers, family members and caregivers, and early childhood
  - 23 educators concerning the program required by subsection (1) and the funding and services to be coordinated
  - 24 by the department pursuant to this section;
  - 25 (c) make grants to licensed child care providers and early childhood educators for the purposes of
  - 26 providing training and encouraging attendance at training held for the purposes of the program established by
  - 27 this section;
  - 28 (d) monitor the implementation and management of the program created pursuant to this section; and
  - 29 (e) assess the effectiveness of the training, grants, and program provided in accordance with this
  - 30 section and include a written assessment in an appropriate report to the legislature.

1 (3) The program established pursuant to this section must be statewide in scope and may not favor a  
2 part of the state or a part of the population of this state over another part or population.

3 (4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.  
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5 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation.** The following money is appropriated from the general  
6 fund to the department of public health and human services for the purposes of the program provided for in  
7 [section 1]:

8 Fiscal Year 2006 \$350,000

9 Fiscal Year 2007 \$350,000  
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11 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
12 integral part of Title 52, chapter 2, part 7, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 2, part 7, apply to [section 1].  
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14 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2005.  
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