1   SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

2   INTRODUCED BY J. O'NEIL

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4   A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF

5   MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY ON THE REQUIREMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR THE

6   MONTANA SUPREME COURT TO BE A GRADUATE OF A LAW SCHOOL ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN

7   BAR ASSOCIATION.

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9   WHEREAS, the American Bar Association is an ideological organization similar to a political party in that

10   it takes positions on policy issues under debate within the body politic, our state legislatures, and the U.S.

11   Congress; and

12   WHEREAS, only a person who is a member of the Montana state bar may be a candidate for the

13   Montana Supreme Court; and

14   WHEREAS, state tax dollars are used to further the accreditation process for the University of Montana

15   School of Law; and

16   WHEREAS, Montana would be better served by having a Supreme Court that is composed of individuals

17   with more diverse intellectual and professional pursuits.

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19   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

20   STATE OF MONTANA:

21   That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory

22   committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the issue relating to the

23   restrictions of individuals from candidacy to the Montana Supreme Court who are not graduates of a law school

24   accredited by the American Bar Association.

25   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be

26   presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

27   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review

28   requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2008.

29   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,

30   comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 61st Legislature.

31   - END -