

HOUSE BILL NO. 355

INTRODUCED BY E. MCCLAFFERTY

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MONTANA MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY AT MONTANA TECH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA; PROVIDING THE ACADEMY'S PURPOSE; PROVIDING CRITERIA FOR OPERATION OF THE ACADEMY; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES."

WHEREAS, Montana has a significant population of very high-achieving high school students, including a number who attend private out-of-state academies in order to gain the advantages of close association with other high-achieving students; and

WHEREAS, talented adolescent students learn from each other when brought into a residential living and learning atmosphere and when provided challenging research opportunities; and

WHEREAS, a substantial part of the United States economy is driven by mathematicians, scientists, and engineers, and scientific and technological advances keep the United States economy competitive in the world; and

WHEREAS, high-achieving high school juniors and seniors can get a head start in these vital fields if they complete the last 2 years of high school concurrently with the first 2 years of college.

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Montana math and science academy -- purpose -- student eligibility.**

- (1) There is a Montana math and science academy at Montana tech of the university of Montana.
- (2) The purpose of the academy is to offer a curriculum rich in math and science courses that fosters innovative thinking and can be used in fulfilling both high school and college graduation requirements.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Montana math and science academy -- establishment of criteria. (1)**

Montana tech of the university of Montana and a committee appointed by the commissioner of higher education consisting of high school and university administrators and teachers shall identify:

- (a) criteria for the eligibility and selection of up to 20 students annually beginning in fiscal year 2011;



- 1 (b) appropriate course offerings for four semesters; and  
2 (c) strong indicators for the measurement of performance.  
3 (2) Montana tech of the university of Montana shall build a residential facility for the enrolled students.  
4 (3) The Montana math and science academy shall take daily attendance and provide these attendance  
5 numbers to the high schools from which the academy students come for the purpose of calculating the average  
6 number belonging pursuant to 20-9-311.

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8 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriations -- contingency.** (1) There is appropriated \$75,000 from  
9 the state general fund to the board of regents for the purposes of preparing curriculum and faculty, conducting  
10 outreach to high schools statewide, and selecting student participants for the academy provided for in [section  
11 1].

12 (2) There is appropriated \$220,000 from the state general fund to the board of regents for the purpose  
13 of operating the academy provided for in [section 1].

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15 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified  
16 as an integral part of Title 20, chapter 25, part 2, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 25, part 2, apply to  
17 [sections 1 and 2].

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19 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective dates.** (1) [Sections 1, 2, and 3(1) and this section] are effective  
20 July 1, 2009.

21 (2) [Section 3(2)] is effective on the date that Montana tech of the university of Montana certifies to the  
22 board of regents that the residential facility provided for in [section 2] is operational.

23 - END -