

## 1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

2 INTRODUCED BY R. LAIBLE

3 BY REQUEST OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

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5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
6 MONTANA APPROVING THE BITTERROOT VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT IN RAVALLI  
7 COUNTY.

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9 WHEREAS, the Bitterroot Valley Community College Exploratory Committee, established in February  
10 2006, filed a petition with the Board of Regents requesting an organizational election to approve a community  
11 college district in Ravalli County; and

12 WHEREAS, the petition met the requirements that the proposed community college district fall within  
13 preexisting, contiguous elementary school district boundaries, have a taxable value of at least \$10 million, and  
14 have at least 700 pupils regularly enrolled in public and private high schools within the district and the requirement  
15 that the petition be signed by at least 20% of the proposed district's registered voters; and

16 WHEREAS, prior to calling the organizational election, the Commissioner of Higher Education requested  
17 and received an Attorney General's Opinion (52 A.G. Op. 1), which clarified that the Board of Regents'  
18 recommendation, required pursuant to section 20-15-209, MCA, was nonbinding and declared that the Montana  
19 Legislature had final authority over the approval of a new community college district; and

20 WHEREAS, on May 8, 2007, the registered voters of Ravalli County approved the establishment of the  
21 proposed community college district by a vote of 52% to 48% and elected seven trustees for the proposed  
22 community college district; and

23 WHEREAS, on June 19, 2007, the community college districts coordinator for the Board of Regents  
24 certified that the proposal received a majority of the votes as required by section 20-15-209, MCA, and the Board  
25 of Regents acknowledged certification of the election on July 11, 2007; and

26 WHEREAS, on February 6, 2008, the Ravalli Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved  
27 a letter of support for the establishment of the proposed community college in Ravalli County; and

28 WHEREAS, on March 13, 2008, the Bitterroot Valley Exploratory Committee received a letter supporting  
29 the establishment of the proposed community college from Ravalli County Attorney George H. Corn; and

30 WHEREAS, on March 26, 2008, the Bitterroot Valley Community College Board of Trustees received a

1 letter from the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce supporting the establishment of the proposed community  
2 college; and

3 WHEREAS, following presentations regarding the proposed community college district, the  
4 Postsecondary Education Budget and Policy Subcommittee on June 12, 2008, and the Education and Local  
5 Government Interim Committee on June 13, 2008, voted to draft legislation urging the 2009 Legislature to  
6 approve the establishment of a new community college district in Ravalli County; and

7 WHEREAS, on December 4, 2008, as required by section 20-15-209, MCA, the Board of Regents  
8 provided the Legislature with its recommendation that the Montana Legislature not approve the proposed new  
9 community college district in Ravalli County.

10  
11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 STATE OF MONTANA:

13 That the Montana Legislature hereby approves the establishment of the Bitterroot Valley Community  
14 College District in Ravalli County.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Board of  
16 Trustees of the Bitterroot Valley Community College District, to the Ravalli County Board of County  
17 Commissioners, and to the Board of Regents.

18 - END -