

SENATE BILL NO. 200

INTRODUCED BY T. FACEY

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING STUDENTS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS TO
5 ENROLL IN MONTANA VIRTUAL ACADEMY COURSES THROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN WHICH THEY
6 ARE NOT RESIDENTS; AND AMENDING SECTION 20-7-1201, MCA."

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

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10 **Section 1.** Section 20-7-1201, MCA, is amended to read:
11 **"20-7-1201. Montana virtual academy -- purposes -- enrollment -- governance.** (1) There is a
12 Montana virtual academy at a unit of the Montana university system.

13 (2) The purposes of the Montana virtual academy are to:

14 (a) make distance learning opportunities available to all school-age children through public school
15 districts in the state of Montana;

16 (b) offer high-quality instructors who are licensed and endorsed in Montana and courses that are in
17 compliance with all relevant education and distance learning rules, standards, and policies; and

18 (c) emphasize the core subject matters required under the accreditation standards, offer advanced
19 courses for dual credit in collaboration with the Montana university system, and offer enrichment courses.

20 (3) For the purposes of this part, a school district may enroll pupils who are residents of the district and
21 who are enrolled in the district in Montana virtual academy courses. A school district may also enroll pupils who
22 are residents of the district, but who are not otherwise enrolled in the district, in Montana virtual academy courses
23 and may allow enrollment at the part-time levels of enrollment specified in 20-9-311(4)(a). If the district of
24 residence declines to allow its pupils to enroll in Montana virtual academy courses on that part-time basis, then
25 any other school district in the state may enroll those pupils.

26 ~~(3)~~(4) The Montana virtual academy must be governed by a board with equal representation from:

27 (a) the commissioner of higher education or a designee;

28 (b) the superintendent of public instruction or a designee;

29 (c) a Montana-licensed and Montana-endorsed classroom teacher appointed by the board of public
30 education;

- 1 (d) a Montana-licensed school district administrator appointed by the board of public education;
- 2 (e) a trustee of a Montana school district appointed by the board of public education;
- 3 (f) the dean of the school of education of the hosting unit of the Montana university system or a designee
- 4 as a nonvoting member; and
- 5 (g) the two officers provided for in subsection ~~(5)~~ (6) as nonvoting members.
- 6 ~~(4)~~(5) The governing board shall elect a presiding officer and vice presiding officer to 2-year terms
- 7 without limitation on the number of terms.
- 8 ~~(5)~~(6) The governing board shall hire a program director and a curriculum director who shall serve as
- 9 chief executive officer and vice chief executive officer respectively on the governing board in a nonvoting capacity.
- 10 The program director shall develop and, upon approval of the governing board, implement policies and guidelines
- 11 for the Montana virtual academy pertaining to:
- 12 (a) course offerings;
- 13 (b) software and hardware selection;
- 14 (c) instructor selection;
- 15 (d) partnering school agreements;
- 16 (e) instructor training and curriculum development;
- 17 (f) course evaluation;
- 18 (g) grant opportunities; and
- 19 (h) other activities that are essential to the success of a statewide distance learning program."

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