

## SENATE BILL NO. 385

INTRODUCED BY M. CAFERRO

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING THE MONTANA PARENTS AS SCHOLARS  
5 PROGRAM; CLARIFYING THE FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE PROGRAM; CLARIFYING REPORTING  
6 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 53-4-209, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN  
7 IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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11 **Section 1.** Section 53-4-209, MCA, is amended to read:  
12 **"53-4-209. Montana parents as scholars program -- department duties.** (1) There is a Montana  
13 parents as scholars program administered by the department.  
14 (2) The department shall:  
15 (a) use state maintenance of effort funds or temporary assistance for needy families funds, ~~to the extent~~  
16 ~~practicable~~, in a program to provide public assistance ~~only~~ to eligible ~~individuals~~ households for the purpose of  
17 continuation of education leading toward a high school diploma, a general equivalency degree, vocational  
18 training, an associate's degree, or a baccalaureate degree;  
19 ~~(b) establish or coordinate a skills training center pilot program in coordination with the board of regents~~  
20 ~~or a community college district to provide training to individuals identified as appropriate through an assessment~~  
21 ~~process;~~  
22 ~~(c)~~(b) allow an individual receiving public assistance ~~from the program~~ temporary assistance for needy  
23 families to attend an approved educational program if the individual:  
24 ~~(i) has completed an employee assessment conducted as provided by rule;~~  
25 ~~(ii)~~(i) meets the income and resource eligibility requirements for temporary assistance for needy families;  
26 and  
27 ~~(iii)~~(ii) qualifies as a full-time student pursuant to subsection (4); and  
28 ~~(iv) completes a 180-hour work activity requirement in a 12-month period that may include work study,~~  
29 ~~internships, or paid employment;~~  
30 ~~(d)~~(c) limit approved educational programs to educational courses that are intended to promote economic

1 self-sufficiency, not to exceed the baccalaureate level, ~~or one vocational training program; and~~

2 ~~(e) amend the state plan submitted to the United States department of health and human services to~~  
 3 ~~provide that the state elects, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(A)(ii), to define work as including all activities~~  
 4 ~~permitted under 42 U.S.C. 607 and satisfactory full-time school attendance.~~

5 ~~(3) The department shall provide~~ participants may apply for and may be eligible for child-care assistance  
 6 provided by the department for dependent day care while the recipient is in a work activity to be paid from the  
 7 temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds that are transferred to discretionary funding for child  
 8 care.

9 (4) A program must require a recipient participant to be a full-time student, which means that a recipient  
 10 participant:

11 (a) shall maintain enrollment in at least 12 credit hours each semester or 30 credit hours a year; or

12 (b) must be a full-time high school student, GED student, or vocational training student as defined by  
 13 the institution in which the participant is enrolled;

14 ~~(b)(c)~~ shall maintain a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 grade point scale or be making satisfactory  
 15 progress as defined by the institution in which the participant is enrolled; and

16 ~~(c) shall cooperate with paternity and child support requirements;~~

17 ~~(d) shall agree to relocate after graduation, if necessary, to seek employment in a job for which the~~  
 18 ~~education was intended; and~~

19 ~~(e)(d)~~ may not be allowed to remain in the program after receiving a baccalaureate degree.

20 (5) (a) There may be no more than 50 participants in the program at any one time.

21 (b) Temporary assistance for needy families participants within the 12-month period allowed by federal  
 22 law do not count in the total number of participants in the parents as scholars program. However, the parents as  
 23 scholars program may be used to extend a participant's education beyond the 12-month federal period.

24 (6) The department shall provide annual reports to the legislative finance committee and the children,  
 25 families, health, and human services interim committee."

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 27 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a  
 28 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell  
 29 Chippewa tribe.

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1 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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