

1 _____ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO INVESTIGATE OPTIONS FOR ALLOWING THE
6 CREATION OF HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS SOLELY FOR EXPANSION INTO A K-12 SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
7 TO ANALYZE THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE
8 REPORTED TO THE 64TH LEGISLATURE.

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10 WHEREAS, current law does not allow an elementary district to expand the district's service to educate
11 students through high school graduation;

12 WHEREAS, several elementary districts have expressed the desire to explore with voters the possibility
13 of expanding to a K-12 district;

14 WHEREAS, research indicates that student performance is optimized in secondary schools with 600 to
15 900 students; and

16 WHEREAS, the 63rd Legislature has determined that the complexities and consequences of changing
17 current law warrant greater analysis.

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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, pursuant to
22 section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

- 23 (1) examine the needs and desires of Montana communities to provide K-12 education of children;
- 24 (2) investigate the conditions under which school facilities may be built or utilized to optimize the learning
25 environment and student achievement;
- 26 (3) explore the ways in which changing demographic and economic situations interact with current
27 Montana law pertaining to school districts;
- 28 (4) examine the tax, bond, and levy implications of modifications to current statutes related to elementary
29 district expansion to a K-12 district and of other possible solutions identified during the study; and
- 30 (5) prepare for consideration by the 64th Legislature options that ensure a system of education that



1 develops the full educational potential of each person pursuant to Article X, section 1, of the Montana
2 Constitution.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be
4 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
6 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2014.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
8 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 64th Legislature.

9 - END -