

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38

INTRODUCED BY J. WINDY BOY

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TRIBAL COLLEGES IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, the seven tribal colleges in Montana serve as 1994 federal land grant institutions of higher learning in accordance with the goal of the state to deliver high-quality accredited education; and

WHEREAS, the typical mission of a tribal college is to serve Indian and non-Indian students as well as Indian and non-Indian communities near the college; and

WHEREAS, nontribal member enrollment in the tribal colleges increased 24% from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2012 and is projected to remain at this elevated level through the 2015 biennium; and

WHEREAS, regional and national studies of tribal colleges reveal a higher level of direct and indirect financial benefits to surrounding areas than is popularly appreciated; and

WHEREAS, related research on the economic impact of reservation communities on Montana's economy systematically documented for the first time over \$1 billion in total revenue and expenditures, a considerable portion of which benefitted surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, a study of the impacts of tribal colleges will help inform the legislature's future policymaking and demonstrate its constitutional commitment to support tribal heritage of American Indians in Montana.

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

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

- (1) identify the funding sources and amounts for tribal colleges in Montana, including tuition and fees, federal and state contributions, foundation grants, scholarship donations, and sales and service enterprises;
- (2) determine the uses of that funding, including wages, purchase of goods and services, student employment, and financial aid;
- (3) determine the local expenditures tied to that funding, including faculty-staff expenditures, purchase

1 of goods and services, and student spending; and

2 (4) determine, to the extent possible, the direct and secondary income and employment resulting from
3 those funding uses and expenditures.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate methodologies and expertise be used to implement this
5 study and that tribal college personnel be among the principal stakeholders participating in this study.

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

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

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

12 - END -