

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR POSTSECONDARY TUITION ASSISTANCE
5 AWARDS; REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH RULES AND
6 CRITERIA FOR PROVIDING AWARDS UPON THE OCCURRENCE OF CERTAIN CONTINGENCIES;
7 AMENDING SECTIONS 20-26-103 AND 20-26-201, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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9 WHEREAS, it is the expressed desire of the citizens of Montana to provide the best possible
10 postsecondary educational experience for their children and fellow citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, the best possible postsecondary educational experience is obtained by providing funds
12 directly to the students and allowing them to select the educational program, curriculum, and institution of their
13 choice; and

14 WHEREAS, the executive budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 requests \$34 million for the Montana
15 University System.

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

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19 **Section 1.** Section 20-26-103, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"20-26-103. Definitions.** As used in parts 1 and 2, the following definitions apply:

21 (1) "Postsecondary institution" ~~includes the units of the university system and any private postsecondary~~
22 institution means:

- 23 (a) a unit of the Montana university system, as defined in 20-25-201;
- 24 (b) a Montana community college, defined and organized as provided in 20-15-101;
- 25 (c) an accredited tribal community college located in the state of Montana; or
- 26 (d) any other public or private not-for-profit 4-year college or university located in Montana.

27 (2) "Program advisory council" means the student loan advisory council created by 2-15-1520.

28 (3) "Resident student" means a person who was a resident of Montana prior to enrolling and who is
29 attending a qualified postsecondary institution within Montana."

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