

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 85

2 INTRODUCED BY E. MCCLAFFERTY

3 BY REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

4
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING REIMBURSEMENT TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS
6 FOR TUITION COSTS AND FEES ASSOCIATED WITH DUAL OR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT OF HIGH
7 SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PUBLIC OR TRIBAL POSTSECONDARY MONTANA INSTITUTIONS; PROVIDING
8 FUNDING FOR CAREER COACHING SERVICES FOR STUDENTS; PROVIDING FUNDING FOR INITIATIVES
9 TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ELIGIBLE TO TEACH COLLEGE
10 LEVEL COURSES THROUGH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION;
11 AMENDING SECTION 20-9-706, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY
12 DATE."
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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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16 **Section 1.** Section 20-9-706, MCA, is amended to read:

17 **"20-9-706. Running start program -- authorizing class credits at postsecondary institution --**
18 **eligibility -- payment for credits.** (1) As used in this section, "postsecondary institution" means a unit of the
19 Montana university system, a public community college, or a tribal college.

20 (2) A school district may enter into an interlocal agreement pursuant to Title 7, chapter 11, with a
21 postsecondary institution to institute a "running start" program to allow 11th and 12th grade students, as defined
22 by the district, to attend classes at the postsecondary institution at a cost determined by the interlocal agreement
23 and to obtain credits in classes not available through the school district.

24 (3) An agreement entered into by the district and the postsecondary institution must state the amount
25 for each credit to be paid to the postsecondary institution by the district or the student.

26 (4) To participate in the program, a student shall complete a running start application provided by the
27 district. The district shall determine whether the student has the skills needed to succeed in the proposed college
28 coursework. If accepted, a student may earn both high school and college credits as determined by the interlocal
29 agreement.

30 (5) In registering 11th and 12th grade students in the program, a postsecondary institution may not

1 displace adult students attending the postsecondary institution.

2 (6) If accepted into the program, the student is responsible for transportation, books, and all supplies.

3 (7) If a student accepted into the program drops out of a class or classes at the postsecondary institution
4 during the drop period established by the postsecondary institution, the postsecondary institution shall reimburse
5 the district or the student the cost associated with the student's credits as determined by the interlocal agreement.

6 (8) Using funds appropriated to the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of this section,
7 the superintendent shall reimburse each district for the cost of tuition and fees incurred by the district on behalf
8 of any high school junior or senior attending a postsecondary institution through dual or concurrent enrollment
9 in the high school and postsecondary institution.

10 (9) (a) The obligation under this section to fund the costs of tuition and fees associated with dual or
11 concurrent enrollment is an obligation of the state.

12 (b) This section may not be construed to require a school district to pay tuition and fees on behalf of a
13 dually or concurrently enrolled student without a commitment from the state to the district to reimburse those
14 costs."

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16 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$600,000 from the general fund
17 to the office of public instruction for the biennium ending June 30, 2015, for reimbursements to school districts
18 for the cost of tuition and fees associated with dual or concurrent enrollment of high school students in
19 postsecondary institutions.

20 (2) There is appropriated \$250,000 from the general fund to the office of public instruction for the
21 biennium ending June 30, 2015, to support career coaching services to high school students in five regional
22 service areas throughout Montana. The purpose of career coaching services is to assist students in selecting
23 courses that relate to their interests and career goals and in identifying options and resources to pursue
24 postsecondary education opportunities.

25 (3) There is appropriated \$150,000 to the office of public instruction for the biennium ending June 30,
26 2015, to support initiatives to increase the number of secondary school teachers eligible to teach college level
27 courses through concurrent enrollment.

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29 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a
30 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell

1 Chippewa tribe.

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date -- applicability.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2013, and
4 applies to school district budgets for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2013.

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