

HOUSE BILL NO. 366

INTRODUCED BY R. LYNCH

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO AN EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN MONTANA SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND POSTSECONDARY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Montana Legislature passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 12 encouraging international education in the advancement of the global society; and

WHEREAS, 29 states have formed educational consortia to help increase the number of international students attending colleges and universities within their states; and

WHEREAS, for the past 3 years international students in Montana and their families have contributed roughly \$30 million annually to Montana's economy; and

WHEREAS, education can be considered an export with over 1,300 international students studying in Montana's colleges and universities over the past year; and

WHEREAS, Montana's secondary schools enrolled 278 international students in 2011, third in terms of international secondary students per capita.

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Grants for educational consortium.** The commissioner of higher education shall establish a grant program to provide funding to an educational consortium to encourage and promote international students to select accredited secondary schools and select colleges and universities for postsecondary education in Montana.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$20,000 from the general fund for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 to the commissioner of higher education for the purpose of funding [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2013.

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