

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

2 INTRODUCED BY T. JACOBSON

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO INCLUDE THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION
6 OF A FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION.

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8 WHEREAS, without knowledge and understanding of financial matters, people are incapable of managing
9 their personal finances effectively and making sound decisions regarding matters like purchasing, saving,
10 investing, and borrowing; and

11 WHEREAS, becoming financially literate and learning these necessary skills at an early age encourages
12 greater economic self-sufficiency, higher levels of successful home ownership, and enhanced retirement security;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the informed use of credit and other financial products and services benefits individual
15 consumers and promotes economic growth; and

16 WHEREAS, the past decade has seen declining personal savings rates, increased bankruptcy rates,
17 increased home foreclosures, and rising percentages of household income devoted to servicing household debt;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, a lack of financial literacy can be especially damaging to students and families during hard
20 economic times; and

21 WHEREAS, many students in Montana's public schools do not receive sufficient financial education in
22 their homes; and

23 WHEREAS, personal financial education and money management skills are crucial to ensure that our
24 young people and adults are prepared to manage credit and debt, build savings, and become responsible
25 workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and productive citizens.

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

29 (1) That the Board of Public Education be strongly urged to require students to demonstrate proficiency
30 in financial literacy by successfully completing a financial literacy course as a requirement for graduation.

