

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

INTRODUCED BY JACOBSON, BLASDEL, ECK, HANSEN, HUNTER, KNUDSEN, MCCLAFFERTY,  
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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
MONTANA URGING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO INCLUDE THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION  
OF A FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) That the Board of Public Education be strongly urged to require students to demonstrate proficiency



- 1 in financial literacy by successfully completing a financial literacy course as a requirement for graduation.
- 2 (2) That the required financial literacy course include instruction on:
- 3 (a) financial responsibility and decisionmaking;
- 4 (b) basic financial functions, including skills such as opening a bank account and writing a check;
- 5 (c) income and careers;
- 6 (d) planning and money management;
- 7 (e) credit and debt management, including the fundamentals of purchasing, saving, investing, and
- 8 borrowing;
- 9 (f) risk management and insurance;
- 10 (g) how to avoid becoming a victim of predatory lending, financial scams, and other forms of financial
- 11 exploitation;
- 12 (h) financial planning for higher education; and
- 13 (i) financial planning for retirement.
- 14 (3) That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to each member of the Board of Public
- 15 Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- 16 - END -