1   HOUSE BILL NO. 774

2   INTRODUCED BY J. WINDY BOY, M. CAFERRO

3

4   A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE COMPUTER CODING STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

5   PILOT PROGRAM; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY TO ADMINISTER THE

6   PROGRAM; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE GRANTEES; ~~PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION;~~

7   PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A

8   TERMINATION DATE."

9

10   WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that modern workforce needs require many employees today and

11   in the future to understand computer sciences and to know computer coding and computer programming; and

12   WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that opportunities for minors to engage in part-time employment

13   to develop the soft skills required to be effective employees continue to decline; and

14   WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that opportunities for employment in high-wage jobs and careers

15   related to computer sciences may be harder to find and participate in from tribal communities across Montana;

16   and

17   WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that students in tribal communities face additional barriers to entry into

18   computer science-related careers, including significant populations in poverty, a lack of computer science-related

19   opportunities to learn hard skills, and a lack of part-time employment for students to learn soft skills related to

20   being a good employee; and

21   WHEREAS, a computer coding pilot program would be able to meet the duel needs of part-time

22   employment and exposure and access to vital computer science knowledge, skills, and curriculum.

23

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

25

26   NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Computer coding student employment pilot program.** (1) There is a

27   2-year computer coding student employment pilot program administered by the department of labor and industry.

28   The purpose of the program is to provide part-time employment to students in tribal communities to complete

29   computer coding and computer programming training.

30   (2) The department shall develop a pilot program grant application that incorporates the requirements

1   of subsection (3) and develop criteria to award grant funds to successful applicants. The pilot program must target

2   Montana tribal communities that face barriers to entry for students into computer science-related employment.

3   (3) To be eligible for a grant, the grantee shall:

4   (a) employ Montana students from tribal communities between the ages of 14 and 18 years old and pay

5   participating students an hourly rate of at least the current Montana minimum hourly wage rate pursuant to

6   39-3-409;

7   (b) teach and administer a task-based computer science program that allows participants to move

8   through the program at individual speeds. The grantee may use an industry-recognized online curriculum or may

9   develop its own curriculum.

10   (c) provide information and exposure to computer science-related career and job opportunities, including

11 the degrees or credentials required to be qualified for various opportunities, locations where the degrees or

12 credentials may be obtained, and what secondary education coursework would benefit a participant who would

13 like to pursue a computer science-related career.

14   (4) A grantee shall prepare a final report documenting the successes, challenges, and overall impressions

15 of the pilot program and submit the report to the department of labor and industry before the start of the next

16 regular legislative session.

17

18 ~~   NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated $300,000 from the general fund to~~

19 ~~the department of labor and industry for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, for the purposes of the computer~~

20 ~~coding student employment pilot program established in [section 1].~~

21

22   NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a

23 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell

24 Chippewa tribe.

25

26   NEW SECTION. **SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.** IT IS THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATURE THAT THE

27 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF [THIS ACT] WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES.

28

29   NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an

30 integral part of Title 41, chapter 2, and the provisions of Title 41, chapter 2, apply to [section 1].

1

2   NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

3

4   NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 2021.

5   - END -