

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY FOR TWELFTH-GRADE  
5 STUDENTS WHO LOST AN OPPORTUNITY FOR POSTSECONDARY FINANCIAL AID AS A RESULT OF  
6 THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AUTHORIZING SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEES TO ADMIT OR RETAIN A  
7 LIMITED NUMBER OF STUDENTS FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR OF ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC  
8 ELIGIBILITY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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

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12 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Seniors affected by covid-19 pandemic -- additional year of**  
13 **eligibility.** (1) Pursuant to 20-5-101(3), the trustees of the district may admit or retain a pupil who was in 12th  
14 grade during the 2020-2021 school year and who was adversely affected by the covid-19 pandemic. The  
15 trustees are limited to offering this additional year of academic and athletic eligibility to the following number of  
16 students:

- 17 (a) for a first-class district under 20-6-301, five students;
  - 18 (b) for a second-class district under 20-6-301, four students; and
  - 19 (c) for a third-class district under 20-6-301, three students.
- 20 (2) For the purposes of this section, "adversely affected" means a pupil who was in 12th grade during  
21 the 2020-2021 school year who lost eligibility for, had an offer rescinded for, or likely was denied the  
22 opportunity for a scholarship or other financial aid to a postsecondary institution as a result of the covid-19  
23 pandemic. This includes athletic, academic, or other scholarship or financial aid awards.

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

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27 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 2022.

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