

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE BEST BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE
5 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."
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7 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana recently
8 conducted a survey to examine the adequacy of child care in Montana and found significant economic impacts
9 for Montana parents, employers, and taxpayers; and

10 WHEREAS, of the 404 households that responded, 57% reported that finding affordable child care is a
11 challenge, 46% reported leaving work in the previous month due to inadequate child care, and 44% of
12 respondents missed a full day of work in the previous month due to inadequate child care; and

13 WHEREAS, other impacts of inadequate child care included survey respondents who declined to
14 pursue further education or training, turned down a promotion or a job offer, reduced work hours from full-
15 part-time, and had been demoted, transferred to a less desirable position, or fired; and

16 WHEREAS, the economic impact for households earning \$30,000 or less annually was approximately
17 \$3,400, more than 10%, in lost wages; and

18 WHEREAS, the overall average economic impact in 2019 to the Montana economy included a \$5,700
19 loss to households, a \$2,150 loss to businesses, and a \$1,260 loss to taxpayers; and

20 WHEREAS, the overall total economic impact in 2019 that inadequate child care had on the state's
21 economy included a loss of \$145,146,000 to Montana households, \$54,562,000 to Montana businesses, and
22 \$32,036,000 to Montana taxpayers; and

23 WHEREAS the aggregated 10-year burden on the Montana economy due to inadequate child care is
24 forecasted to be a cost of \$572 million to households, \$207 million to businesses, and \$128 million to
25 taxpayers, for a total aggregated 10-year burden of \$907 million from 2019 to 2028.
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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