

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35

INTRODUCED BY B. MOLNAR

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR CERTAIN INMATES; AND REQUIRING THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 69TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, THE 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATE IS 24.4% FOR FEMALE OFFENDERS AND 38.6% FOR MALE OFFENDERS; AND

WHEREAS, RECIDIVISM RESULTS IN MORE VICTIMS OF CRIME; AND

WHEREAS, RECIDIVISM GENERATES POVERTY IN THE FAMILIES OF THE INCARCERATED; AND

WHEREAS, STEADY EMPLOYMENT WILL KEEP THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED OFF THE STREETS AND IN BETTER COMPANY.

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

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study educational opportunities and vocational training for inmates who are within 6 months of release, including but not limited to:

- (1) in-prison opportunities, such as barbering, tattooing, and cosmetology, that can lead to licensure when the inmate is released;
- (2) the availability of skilled-trade training programs, both private, public, and union-based;
- (3) the availability of unskilled trades;
- (4) availability and access to online certificate training programs;
- (5) how existing facilities, such as high school or college shops or other public or private facilities near prerelease centers, might be used during nonschool hours or outside of regular hours to teach inmates skills; and

