68th Legislature SJ0035.2

1	SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35		
2	INTRODUCED BY B. MOLNAR		
3			
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF		
5	MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND VOCATIONAL		
6	TRAINING FOR CERTAIN INMATES; AND REQUIRING THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE		
7	REPORTED TO THE 69TH LEGISLATURE.		
8			
9	WHEREAS, THE 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATE IS 24.4% FOR FEMALE OFFENDERS AND 38.6% FOR MALE		
10	OFFENDERS; AND		
11	WHEREAS, RECIDIVISM RESULTS IN MORE VICTIMS OF CRIME; AND		
12	WHEREAS, RECIDIVISM GENERATES POVERTY IN THE FAMILIES OF THE INCARCERATED; AND		
13	WHEREAS, STEADY EMPLOYMENT WILL KEEP THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED OFF THE STREETS AND IN		
14	BETTER COMPANY.		
15			
16	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF		
17	THE STATE OF MONTANA:		
18	That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory		
19	committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study educational		
20	opportunities and vocational training for inmates who are within 6 months of release, including but not limited to		
21	(1) in-prison opportunities, such as barbering, tattooing, and cosmetology, that can lead to		
22	licensure when the inmate is released;		
23	(2) the availability of skilled-trade training programs, both private, public, and union-based;		
24	(3) the availability of unskilled trades;		
25	(4) availability and access to online certificate training programs;		
26	(5) how existing facilities, such as high school or college shops or other public or private facilities		
27	near prerelease centers, might be used during nonschool hours or outside of regular hours to teach inmates		
28	skills; and		



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1	(6)	if applicable, access to business classes to help inmates start businesses as an alternative	
2	option when employers are reluctant to hire a person with a criminal history.		
3	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study involve input from the Department of Corrections, the	
4	Department of Labor and Industry, the Office of Public Instruction, the Commissioner of Higher Education, labor		
5	representatives, representatives from the state and local chambers of commerce, and other stakeholders		
6	identified by the committee.		
7	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be	
8	presented to a	nd reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.	
9	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review	
10	requirements,	be concluded prior to September 15, 2024.	
11	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,	
12	comments, or	recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 69th Legislature.	
13		- END -	

