

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20
INTRODUCED BY D. MAHLUM

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA ENCOURAGING HIGH SCHOOLS TO OFFER INSTRUCTION IN CONSUMER EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIP SKILL-BASED MARRIAGE AND INTERPERSONAL AND WORKPLACE EDUCATION AND MEDIATION.

WHEREAS, the breakup of marriages and the increase in cohabitation continue to be ongoing in Montana; and

WHEREAS, half of all recent marriages involve at least one spouse who has previously been married; and

WHEREAS, there are different types of families in Montana today, such as the traditional two-parent family, single-parent families, blended families, and grandparents raising grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, poor personal financial management contributes to problems in marriages and interpersonal and workplace relationships; and

WHEREAS, the number one disruptive factor in the workplace is problems in the marriage relationship; and

WHEREAS, although parents are the first and primary teachers of their children, schools may also determine that they have a responsibility to help prepare students for the responsibilities of marriage, family, and interpersonal and workplace relationships; and

WHEREAS, establishing positive marital, interpersonal, and workplace relationships is a vital component in maximizing an individual's opportunities for success in marriage and at work.

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

That the Legislature encourage the Office of Public Instruction, local boards of trustees, and local high schools to develop a course or curriculum for an existing course that includes instruction in consumer education and relationship skill-based marriage and interpersonal and workplace education and mediation, in order to better prepare students for the responsibilities of marriage, family, parenting, and work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Public Instruction, local boards of trustees, and local high

schools carefully consider the merits of offering consumer education and relationship skill-based marriage and interpersonal and workplace education and mediation to students in their senior year of high school so as to maximize the likelihood that students will be better prepared to meet the responsibilities of marriage, family, parenting, and work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Public Instruction be encouraged to report progress in the development of these courses or curriculum to the Governor and the Governor's Council on Families on or before June 30, of each year beginning in 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for distribution to every high school district and K-12 district in the state.

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