

HOUSE BILL NO. 230
INTRODUCED BY R. KOOPMAN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ALTERNATIVELY CERTIFY TEACHERS; ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION; REQUIRING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO ISSUE A TEACHER CERTIFICATE TO A PERSON WHO IS ALTERNATIVELY CERTIFIED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Certification of teachers by school district trustees -- qualifications -- exemptions -- state certification. (1) The trustees of a school district may adopt an alternative certification policy to allow a person who does not hold a teacher certificate issued by the superintendent of public instruction to teach in a school in the district. In order to be alternatively certified, a person shall:

(a) pass an examination used to admit a person to a teacher education program to determine if the person's basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics are sufficient to perform satisfactorily as a teacher; and

(b) complete a 1-year internship in a school in the district.

(2) The trustees' issuance of an alternative certificate must be based on an evaluation of:

(a) the person's academic knowledge;

(b) the results of the examination required in subsection (1)(a);

(c) the person's ability to communicate information effectively to pupils; and

(d) the academic achievement of pupils taught by the person during the internship.

(3) The trustees shall report to the superintendent of public instruction all of the alternative certificates issued under this section.

(4) A person alternatively certified under this section is subject to all of the provisions of Title 20 relating to teachers except for the provisions of 20-4-103, 20-4-104, and 20-4-106.

(5) The trustees may hire a teacher who has been alternatively certified by another school district under the provisions of this section.

(6) After the 1-year internship, the trustees shall present the person to the superintendent of public instruction for state certification. The superintendent shall issue a teacher certificate to a person alternatively certified by the trustees under the provisions of this section.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 20, chapter 4, part 1, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 4, part 1, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2007.

- END -