

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

INTRODUCED BY G. LIND

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO CIRCULATE SPECIFIED MATERIAL TO ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN MONTANA AND TO ENCOURAGE THOSE SCHOOLS TO DELIVER THE "BE SAFE" FIREARMS SAFETY PROGRAM TO ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 1 THROUGH 3 EACH SCHOOL YEAR.

WHEREAS, the right of Montana citizens to keep and bear arms is guaranteed under both the Constitution of the State of Montana and the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, as many as 90% of Montana households are estimated to contain firearms and it is expected that Montana citizens will continue to have a high level of firearm ownership; and

WHEREAS, Montana has the highest percentage in the country of residents purchasing hunting licenses; and

WHEREAS, improper or unsupervised use of firearms results in a small but tragic number of firearm injuries to children in Montana; and

WHEREAS, safety training for other life-hazard or injury-hazard topics, such as fire escape, is currently conducted in Montana's elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, firearm safety training for school-age children, as is urged in section 20-7-132, MCA, could significantly reduce the number of firearm-related injuries and deaths among Montana children; and

WHEREAS, the "Be Safe" program has been made available by the Superintendent of Public Instruction for children in first through third grade throughout Montana for over a decade to teach firearm safety and is cost-effective.

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

That the Office of Public Instruction be urged to encourage all public and private schools in Montana to deliver the "Be Safe" program to all students in grades 1 through 3 each school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Public Instruction circulate this resolution, a copy of section 20-7-132, MCA, and "Be Safe" program materials to all public and private schools in Montana.

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