

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

INTRODUCED BY B. HAWKS

BY REQUEST OF THE SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS STANDING COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA TO STUDY AND PRODUCE GUIDANCE FOR THE LEGISLATURE ON EDUCATION FUNDING AND EDUCATION REFORM.

WHEREAS, Montanans recognize that the full spectrum of our education experience is central to our success as a state and a nation; and

WHEREAS, Montanans are recognizing the need for our educational system to have direct linkage to economic development and workforce issues; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Montana is responding statutorily and financially to meet the State's constitutional responsibilities to education; and

WHEREAS, many states are initiating educational reform at the elementary and secondary level; and

WHEREAS, Montanans have begun to speak in terms of a seamless educational system that better prepares students for higher learning; and

WHEREAS, due to term limits, the Legislature of Montana is losing institutional knowledge about education issues.

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, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study and produce guidance for the Legislature on education funding and education reform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT IF THE STUDY IS ASSIGNED TO THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BE REQUESTED TO EXPAND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE TO ALLOW FOR AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS TO FOCUS, AS A SUBCOMMITTEE, ON THE STUDY OF EDUCATION FUNDING AND EDUCATION REFORM.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 61st Legislature.

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