

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

INTRODUCED BY D. LEWIS

BY REQUEST OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO REEXAMINE THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHMENT PROCESS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 62ND LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the community college establishment process is provided for in Title 20, chapter 15, part 2, MCA; and

WHEREAS, during the 2007-2008 interim this process was used for the first time; and

WHEREAS, this first test of the community college establishment process raised questions as to what entity is best suited to bear certain responsibilities and costs of the process.

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:

- (1) conduct a comprehensive review of the community college establishment process;
- (2) identify the entities best suited to take responsibility for receiving voter petitions, order the election of trustees, call for the nominations of trustee candidates, give election notices, conduct elections, certify election results, and take statutory steps to create a new community college district; and
- (3) identify the costs incurred in fulfilling these responsibilities and how those costs might be funded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Montana Secretary of State, and the former participants in the Bitterroot Valley Community College establishment process be adequately consulted during every facet of this study.

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, 2010.

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 62nd Legislature.

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