

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

INTRODUCED BY L. JONES

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE PRIORITIZE A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE SCHOOL DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AND THAT THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR PRESENT FINDINGS FROM THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT TO THE 65TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, it is the superintendent of public instruction's duty pursuant to 20-3-105 to "faithfully work in all practical and possible ways for the welfare of the public schools of the state"; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature in providing a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools that the statewide data system administered by the office of public instruction supports "the collection of data from schools through a process that provides for automated conversion of data from systems already in use by school districts or the office of public instruction and that resolves the repetition of data entry and redundancy of data requested that has been characteristic of the data system in the past and that otherwise reduces the diversion of district staff time away from instruction and supervision", as emphasized in 20-7-104; and

WHEREAS, 20-7-104 also requires that the "superintendent of public instruction shall continually work in consultation with the K-12 data task force provided for in 20-7-105 to analyze the best options for a statewide data system"; and

WHEREAS, the K-12 data task force has met only once during the biennium since its creation; and

WHEREAS, schools are reporting that the burdens of adhering to the data collection requirements of the office of public instruction are taking time away from instruction and impeding the ability of schools to develop the full educational potential of their students.

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

That the Legislative Audit Committee prioritize a performance audit of the school data collection systems and procedures of the office of public instruction, and that as part of the performance audit, the Legislative



1 Auditor:

2 (1) review the history of efforts to improve the efficiency of data collection from Montana schools;

3 (2) investigate the data collection systems of other states to determine whether Montana is adhering to

4 generally accepted best practices for data collection; and

5 (3) present findings from the performance audit in a readily accessible format for use by the Legislature

6 and any interested parties.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the performance audit including any findings,

8 conclusions, comments, or recommendations be reported to the 65th Legislature.

9 - END -