

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

2 INTRODUCED BY K. KELKER

3 BY REQUEST OF THE SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION

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5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
6 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE NEEDS AND COSTS OF PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE
7 FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE
8 REPORTED TO THE 66TH LEGISLATURE.

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10 WHEREAS, the 2015-2016 School Funding Interim Commission examined several issues related to the
11 costs of educational programs to provide for students with special needs, as defined in 20-9-309, and determined
12 that these issues warrant further study.

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

16 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
17 section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the needs and costs for programs to provide
18 for students with special needs, as defined in 20-9-309, such as:

19 (1) children with disabilities, as defined in 20-7-401;

20 (2) at-risk students, as defined in 20-1-101;

21 (3) students with limited English proficiency;

22 (4) children who are qualified for services under 29 U.S.C. 794; and

23 (5) gifted and talented children, as defined in 20-7-901.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study:

25 (1) review existing studies of funding special education in Montana and their conclusions and
26 recommendations;

27 (2) review best practices for programs serving students with special needs;

28 (3) review the current funding mechanisms for programs serving students with special needs;

29 (4) examine recent expenditure patterns for programs serving students with special needs;

30 (5) review current programs utilized by Montana schools to serve students with special needs;

