65th Legislature HJ0032.01

1	HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32							
2	INTRODUCED BY M. DUNWELL							
3								
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF							
5	MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STUDENT							
6	ACHIEVEMENT AND ATTENDANCE, CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM, AND TRUANCY IN THE K-12 EDUCATION							
7	SYSTEM; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 66TH							
8	LEGISLATURE.							
9								
10	WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution was ordained and established based on the desire to improve the							
11	quality of life, equality of opportunity, and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations; and							
12	WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution enshrined as a goal of the people the establishment of a system							
13	of education that develops the full educational potential of each person; and							
14	WHEREAS, the future of Montana depends on students in our schools developing their educational							
15	potential, achieving highly, and graduating; and							
16	WHEREAS, improved attendance rates have been proven to directly impact student achievement and							
17	graduation rates; and							
18	WHEREAS, states are now required under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act to report chronic							
19	absenteeism in schools and federal resources may be available to address chronic absenteeism; and							
20	WHEREAS, strategies for addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy are evolving at the classroom							
21	school, district, and state policy levels.							
22								
23	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE							
24	STATE OF MONTANA:							
25	That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to							
26	section 5-5-217, MCA, to study the relationship between student achievement and attendance, chronic							
27	absenteeism, and truancy in the K-12 education system.							
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study:							
29	(1) work in collaboration with the Board of Public Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction							
30	and school district trustees and involve input from teachers, administrators, parents, and students;							

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(3) review attendance rates in Montana schools with data disaggregated for subgroups of students and examine any correlation between attendance and achievement gaps among these subgroups;

- (4) investigate the social factors that impact truancy and chronic absenteeism and promising strategies for improving attendance;
- (5) determine whether statutory changes would improve attendance rates, thereby helping to achieve Montana's constitutional goal of establishing a system of education that develops the full educational potential of all students and benefits the people of the state of Montana.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2018.
- 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 66th Legislature.

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