

HOUSE BILL NO. 153

INTRODUCED BY K. KELKER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN; REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO REPORT BIENNIALLY ON THE STATUS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS SERVING GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN; AND AMENDING SECTION 20-7-904, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 20-7-904, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-7-904. Review and recommendations of proposals -- reporting. (1) The policies of the board of public education must ~~assure~~ ensure that program proposals submitted by school districts to the superintendent of public instruction contain:

- (a) evidence that identification procedures are comprehensive and appropriate;
- (b) a program description including stated needs and measurable objectives designed to meet those needs;
- (c) evidence that the activities are appropriate and will serve to achieve the program objectives; and
- (d) a method to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

(2) School districts may request assistance from the staff of the superintendent in formulating program proposals.

(3) The superintendent of public instruction shall supervise and coordinate the programs for gifted and talented children by:

- (a) recommending to the board of public education the adoption of those policies necessary to establish a planned and coordinated program; and
- (b) establishing a procedure for review and approval of program proposals.

(4) On or before September 15 of even-numbered years, the office of public instruction shall report to the governor and the legislature on the status and effectiveness of programs serving gifted and talented students.

The report must include:

- (a) the total number of schools applying for and receiving funds from the office of public instruction for

- 1 gifted and talented programs pursuant to 20-7-903 and a breakdown by school size;
2 (b) a description of the ways in which districts applying for funds report meeting the requirements to
3 include a child's parents in the gifted and talented evaluation process, pursuant to 20-7-902;
4 (c) the total number of students districts report evaluating for gifted and talented programs and the total
5 number of students identified as gifted and talented;
6 (d) a description of the training provided by districts to teachers of gifted and talented students;
7 (e) a description of services provided by districts to gifted and talented students; and
8 (f) an evaluation of the effectiveness of gifted and talented programs, including measures such as:
9 (i) measures of student achievement or growth;
10 (ii) indicators of student and parent satisfaction with the programs; or
11 (iii) other gauges of program quality as determined by the office of public instruction."

12

- END -