



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF BULLYING; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS BE REPORTED TO THE 67TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted The Bully-Free Montana Act in 2015; and

WHEREAS, bullying remains a significant problem; and

WHEREAS, modern technology and social media can exacerbate the harm done through bullying.

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) examine the problem of bullying in Montana schools;
- (2) review policies in other states that have proven effective in addressing bullying;
- (3) analyze the impacts of the Bully-Free Montana Act;
- (4) determine whether changes to the Bully-Free Montana Act would be beneficial in addressing the problem of bullying; and
- (5) consider policies that:
  - (a) prevent bullying behavior from developing;
  - (b) ensure protection from further bullying for victims; and
  - (c) promote recovery for victims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study should seek out the assistance and involvement of the Office of Public Instruction, the Board of Public Education, the Department of Public Health and Human Services, school counselors and psychologists, school resource officers, representatives from the youth court system, and appropriate K-12 education stakeholders.

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, 2020.

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 67th Legislature.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within joint resolution,  
HJ 0056, originated in the House.

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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Chief Clerk of the House

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 56

INTRODUCED BY B. USHER

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