

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 482

2 INTRODUCED BY J. GILLETTE, J. CARLSON

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MONTANA FOSTER YOUTH HIGHER  
5 EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE."

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

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9 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Montana foster youth higher education assistance program --**

10 **administration -- eligible institutions.** (1) (a) There Contingent on appropriation from the legislature, there is  
11 a Montana foster youth higher education assistance program administered by the board of regents through the  
12 commissioner of higher education for the purpose of helping youth who have aged out of the foster care system  
13 meet their educational, vocational, and professional goals without accruing debt.

14 (b) The Montana foster youth higher education assistance program shall allow and encourage  
15 each participating institution to develop a unique program to serve its eligible students pursuant to [section 2].

16 (c) The board of regents shall adopt policies for the administration of the program consistent with  
17 [sections 1 and 2]. The policies must include a provision that if funds appropriated for the Montana foster youth  
18 higher education assistance program are insufficient in any year, then financial assistance to students under  
19 [section 2(1)(d)] is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

20 (2) An educational or training institution is eligible for a program grant if it is a community or tribal  
21 college located in the state of Montana, a 2-year or 4-year institution of the Montana university system, or a  
22 publicly funded vocational training program.

23 (3) The legislature intends that institutions receiving grants pursuant to subsection (2) may reapply  
24 to the program for additional grants.

25 (4) In accordance with 5-11-210, the commissioner shall report annually to the education interim  
26 committee and the children, families, health, and human services interim committee on the status and impacts  
27 of the grants described in this section.