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Education Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

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TO: Education Interim Committee
FROM: Pad McCracken, Committee Staff, and Laura Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney
RE: Provisional bill drafts for your review and public comment in September
DATE: September 8, 2022

The bill drafts listed below are the ones the committee directed staff to continue working on and bring to the committee for public comment and discussion and ultimately your determination whether to recommend as committee bills to the 2023 Legislature. Three of these drafts (PDs 13, 30, and 31) are school funding clean-up drafts; the others relate to policy issues that you have identified or have been brought to your attention. This brief memo is something of a table of contents and summary of these drafts that you will review at your September 12 meeting.

PD 13 (Laura) – clean-up transportation; addresses issue related to authorization to use "passenger vehicles" for special school activities in HB 300 (2021); same as June version

PD 14 (Laura) – revising the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program; eliminating the content area criteria and prorate in the current program; same as June version

PD 30 (Pad) – clean-up related to payment dates; very basic, technical clean-up; same as June version

PD 44 (Pad; was PD 31) – clean-up definition of "over-BASE budget levy"; more complicated, but still technical clean-up; would like committee approval to continue working on 20-9-141 with sponsor and others

PD 32 (Pad) – truancy laws based on enrollment rather than compulsory age; this draft links truancy laws with parents' decision to enroll their child in a public school, basically communicating "If you're in (enrolled), you're in (expected to attend)"; same as June version

PD 33 (Pad) – schools operating outside district boundaries; this draft prohibits the dynamic in which a school district operates a school or "offsite instructional setting"¹ outside of the district's boundaries; same as June version

PD 45 (Pad; replaces PDs 35 and 36 from June) – provides a definition of proficiency-based learning in relation to personalized learning and the transformational learning program; revises transformational learning selection process to have BPE evaluate applications prior to entering lottery and determine whether districts can continue in program based on annual report

¹ From 20-1-101(14), MCA: "Offsite instructional setting" means an instructional setting at a location, separate from a main school site, where a school district provides for instruction to a student who is enrolled in the district.