

1 **** BILL NO. ****

2 INTRODUCED BY ****

3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****

4
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ***."

6
7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

8
9 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Innovation and excellence in education coordinating council.** (1)

10 There is an innovation and excellence in education coordinating council. The purpose of the council is to
11 formalize coordination and cooperation by the educational entities that are constitutionally responsible for
12 governing the public education system and to develop a statewide strategic vision and implementation plan to
13 improve the public education system of Montana.

14 (2) The innovation and excellence in education coordinating council is composed of the following
15 members:

16 (a) six members of the house of representatives, three from the majority party and three from the
17 minority party, appointed by the speaker of the house in consultation with the house majority leader and the
18 house minority leader;

19 (b) six members of the senate, three from the majority party and three from the minority party,
20 appointed by the president of the senate in consultation with the senate majority leader and the senate minority
21 leader;

22 (c) the presiding officer of the board of public education or the presiding officer's designee;

23 (d) the superintendent of public instruction or the superintendent's designee;

24 (e) the presiding officer of the board of regents of higher education or the presiding officer's
25 designee;

26 (f) a trustee of a Montana school board appointed by the governor from a list of three candidates
27 provided by a state professional organization of school district trustees; *Const. player*

28 (g) the governor or the governor's designee; *Const. player*

(h) the commissioner of the department of labor and industry or the commissioner's designee;

(i) a Montana-endorsed school administrator appointed by the governor from a list of three candidates provided by a state professional organization of public school administrators;

(j) a Montana-licensed and Montana-endorsed elementary school teacher appointed by the governor from a list of three candidates provided by a state labor organization representing public employees for the purposes of collective bargaining;

(k) a Montana-licensed and Montana-endorsed secondary school teacher appointed by the governor from a list of three candidates provided by a state labor organization representing public employees for the purposes of collective bargaining;

(l) a director of a special education cooperative appointed by the governor from a list of three candidates provided by the superintendent of public instruction;

(m) an individual representing tribal school interests appointed by the governor from a list of three candidates provided by the board of education;

(n) the presiding officer of the organization that oversees the accredited professional educator preparation programs in Montana or the presiding officer's designee;

(o) a Montana-licensed and Montana-endorsed school counselor appointed by the governor from a list of three candidates provided by a state professional organization of school counselors;

(p) an individual representing the interests of early childhood education professionals appointed by the governor from a list of three candidates provided by a state professional organization of early childhood professionals;

(q) an individual representing the interests of small and rural schools in Montana appointed by the governor from a list of three candidates provided by a state professional organization representing the interests of rural education;

(3) (a) The term of office for a legislator member appointed under subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b) is two years. A legislator may be appointed to successive terms on the council.

(b) The term of office for a member appointed by the governor under subsections (2)(f) or (2)(i) through (2)(q) is four years. The governor may stagger the initial appointments to the council so that no more than four members' terms expire in any year.

(4) The council shall select a presiding officer and a vice presiding officer from among its members to serve for a term of two years.

(5) The council shall:

(a) assist in the implementation, dissemination, and communication of the statewide strategic vision and implementation plan and evaluate progress toward meeting the identified goals and strategies;

(b) perform a continuous review of the effectiveness and efficiency of access and delivery of education services and programs in Montana;

(c) identify opportunities to increase collaboration among state education entities and stakeholders;

(d) identify gaps or duplications in education services and programs and make recommendations to address those gaps or duplications;

(e) study and evaluate new and emerging educational initiatives and trends, and provide recommendations for statutory or policy changes to state entities or the legislature if necessary;

(f) support the implementation, dissemination, and communication of local or regional educational initiatives, including innovative educational programs, on a statewide level; and

(g) seek advice and input from interested parties and members of the public as needed in performing the council's duties under this subsection (5).

(6) The council may contract with a reputable national organization to support the council's efforts under this section.

(7) The council shall meet at least quarterly.

(8) The council is attached for administrative purposes to the legislative services division, and the legislative services division shall provide sufficient and appropriate support to the council to carry out its statutory duties, within the limitations of legislative appropriations.

(9) The council is staffed by the legislative services division. The legislative fiscal analyst shall assign staff to assist the council.

(10) The council may form committees or work groups to accomplish the council's purposes.

(11) Unless the person is a full-time salaried officer or employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state, a nonlegislative member appointed to the council is entitled to salary and expenses to

1 the same extent as a legislative member. If the appointee is a full-time salaried officer or employee of the state
2 or of a political subdivision of the state, the appointee is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses as
3 provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

4 - END -

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