

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

2 INTRODUCED BY ****

3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****

4
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ***; AMENDING SECTION 5-5-224, MCA."

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

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9 **Section 1.** Section 5-5-224, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"5-5-224. Education interim committee.** (1) The education interim committee has administrative
11 rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the following executive
12 branch agencies and the entities attached to agencies for administrative purposes:

13 (1)(a) state board of education;

14 (2)(b) board of public education;

15 (3)(c) board of regents of higher education; and

16 (4)(d) office of public instruction.

17 (2) (a) At least once every calendar year [At least twice every interim when the legislature is not in
18 session], the committee shall work with the education interim budget committee provided for in 5-12-501 to hold
19 a joint meeting of the two committees and convene the entities who are assigned duties related to the public
20 education system in the Montana Constitution.

21 (b) The purposes of the convening are to:

22 (i) ensure the educational entities share a common statewide strategic vision of what the public
23 education system in Montana should look in the future and how to achieve the implementation of that strategic
24 vision based on the current state of the public education system;

25 (ii) identify opportunities to increase collaboration among the educational entities and
26 stakeholders;

27 (iii) identify opportunities to align current work performed by the educational entities more
28 effectively, which may include opportunities to consolidate work among entities, sequence work between

entities, and share information between entities more effectively;

(iv) identify gaps or duplications in educational services and programs and make recommendations to the implementing entity or entities to address those gaps or duplications;

(v) review past work, findings, and recommendations published by previous educational entities, including the recommendations and final reports adopted by previous school funding interim commissions, assess how previous recommendations have been implemented, and determine which recommendations still need to be implemented, which educational entity is responsible for implementation, and what additional support the entity needs to implement the recommendations;

(vi) receive updates on new and emerging educational initiatives and trends from the participating educational entities and suggest recommendations for statutory or policy changes to the appropriate educational entity or the legislature if necessary; and

(vii) seek advice and input from interested parties, stakeholders, and members of the public as needed to achieve the purposes of the joint meeting under this subsection (2)(b).

(c) The committee shall invite members from the following agencies and organizations to participate in the joint meeting:

(i) the board of public education;

(ii) the board of regents of higher education;

(iii) the office of public instruction;

(iv) the governor's office;

(v) the department of labor and industry;

(vi) trustees serving on local school boards;

(vii) school administrators, teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, and other staff currently working in Montana public schools;

(viii) parents of students currently enrolled in Montana public schools; and

(ix) students currently enrolled in Montana public schools.

(d) Interested parties and stakeholders that may be invited to provide advice and input pursuant to subsection (2)(b)(vii) include but are not limited to:

(i) professionals with expertise in serving the needs of American Indian students;

(ii) the Montana digital academy provided for in 20-7-1201;

(iii) special education cooperatives;

(iv) the education and workforce data governing board provided for in 20-7-138/the department of
administration;

(v) Montana professional educator preparation programs;

(vi) professionals with expertise in serving students with special needs, including students with a disability, at-risk students, students with limited English proficiency, and gifted and talented students;

(vii) professionals with expertise in providing services for mental health needs and related services, including school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, professionals providing occupational, speech, or other therapy services in a school setting, and paraprofessionals; and

(viii) parent advocacy organizations; "

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