

HOUSE BILL 656

Introduced by D. Brown, et al.

2/06	Introduced
2/06	Referred to Education & Cultural Resources
2/07	First Reading
2/15	Hearing
3/07	Committee Report--Bill Passed
3/08	Referred to Appropriations
3/19	Hearing
3/23	Tabled in Committee

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House BILL NO. *656*
INTRODUCED BY *Joe Brun* *Manahan* *Johnson*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 1993, TO ESTABLISH DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS FOR "AT-RISK" CHILDREN ATTENDING MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN MONTANA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, national studies show that students who drop out of high school cost society more, both in increased welfare and social service costs and in lost human potential; and

WHEREAS, for each \$1 spent on "at-risk" programs, \$7 to \$12 could be saved in social service and custodial costs; and

WHEREAS, throughout Montana and the nation, new efforts are being made to help children who are experiencing trouble in school, have home situations that hinder learning, have substance abuse problems, or have other problems that make them likely to drop out of school; and

WHEREAS, earlier intervention has been documented to be substantially more effective in preventing "at-risk" patterns than subsequent intervention is at correcting those

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patterns; and

WHEREAS, the middle school environment is particularly designed to provide for expanded attention to individual student needs during a critical student developmental and transitional period; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the middle school design is to address the unique nature of preadolescent children by focusing on their intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development in order to enhance a sense of self-worth and to provide for a smooth transition to the high school environment; and

WHEREAS, at a relatively low cost, the Office of Public Instruction can expand "at-risk" programs in the state through demonstration projects, training, and conferences to assist these "at-risk" children.

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1.** Appropriation. There is appropriated from the general fund to the office of public instruction for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, \$75,000 to establish demonstration programs for "at-risk" children attending middle schools in Montana.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2.** Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

-End-

-2-

INTRODUCED BILL
HB 656



APPROVED BY COMM. ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

1 House BILL NO. 656
2 INTRODUCED BY Dave Brown, Monahan, Jacobson

3 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY
4 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
5 FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 1993, TO ESTABLISH
6 DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS FOR "AT-RISK" CHILDREN ATTENDING
7 MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN MONTANA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE
8 EFFECTIVE DATE."

11 WHEREAS, national studies show that students who drop
12 out of high school cost society more, both in increased
13 welfare and social service costs and in lost human
14 potential; and

15 WHEREAS, for each \$1 spent on "at-risk" programs, \$7 to
16 \$12 could be saved in social service and custodial costs;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, throughout Montana and the nation, new efforts
19 are being made to help children who are experiencing trouble
20 in school, have home situations that hinder learning, have
21 substance abuse problems, or have other problems that make
22 them likely to drop out of school; and

23 WHEREAS, earlier intervention has been documented to be
24 substantially more effective in preventing "at-risk"
25 patterns than subsequent intervention is at correcting those

1 patterns; and
2 WHEREAS, the middle school environment is particularly
3 designed to provide for expanded attention to individual
4 student needs during a critical student developmental and
5 transitional period; and

6 WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the middle school design
7 is to address the unique nature of preadolescent children by
8 focusing on their intellectual, social, emotional, and
9 physical development in order to enhance a sense of
10 self-worth and to provide for a smooth transition to the
11 high school environment; and

12 WHEREAS, at a relatively low cost, the Office of Public
13 Instruction can expand "at-risk" programs in the state
14 through demonstration projects, training, and conferences to
15 assist these "at-risk" children.

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-End- SECOND READING
-2- HB 656

