

FIRST READING

MISSING

SECOND READING

MISSING

THIRD READING

MISSING

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 47

INTRODUCED BY HUENNEKENS, MELOY, MULAR, FINLEY,

MCFADDEN, JOHNSTON, GILLIGAN, KIMBLE, JAMES MOORE, YARDLEY,

SCULLY, CONROY, BENGTSON, HALVORSON, DUSSAULT, WILLIAMS,

KELLY, LESTER, JOHNSON, FEDERICO, HARPER,

TEAGUE, FISHBAUGH, ROBBINS, DAY

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE SUPREME COURT TO RESCIND ITS RULE REQUIRING ASPIRANTS TO THE MONTANA BAR TO HOLD A DEGREE FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OF LAW.

WHEREAS, there are presently many members of the Montana bar who discharge their duties in a competent and professional manner who do not hold degrees from accredited law schools, and

WHEREAS, there is but one accredited law school in the entire state of Montana, and

WHEREAS, there are many otherwise capable and qualified citizens of the state of Montana desirous of becoming members of the bar who because of financial, family, or other reasons find it difficult or impossible to attend law school, and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Montana which under Article VII, section 2 of the Montana constitution has the

power to make rules governing admission to the bar and has pursuant to this power adopted a rule requiring that each new member of the bar be a graduate of an accredited law school, and

WHEREAS, many citizens of Montana in reliance upon the former practice of entry into the bar upon passage of the bar examination suffered loss in terms of both time and money spent preparing for the bar examination by the adoption of Rule VI.A.1., and

WHEREAS, the administration of a comprehensive and well-planned bar examination is the only fair and equitable method of maintaining a competent and professional bar.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Supreme Court of the state of Montana is urged to rescind Rule VI.A.1., which rule requires a law degree from an accredited law school before entry into the bar, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Supreme Court is urged to adopt ~~a fair and equitable bar examination which is open to all applicant aspirants to the Montana bar~~, THE RULE ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICANTS TO THE MONTANA BAR WHICH EXISTED PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 1969, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Secretary of State of Montana to each

1 Justice of the Montana Supreme Court.

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