

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30
 2 INTRODUCED BY BRADLEY
 3
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA DIRECTING THE
 6 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO CONDUCT AN
 7 ASSESSMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF BILINGUAL AND LIMITED
 8 ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHILDREN IN MONTANA SCHOOLS AND TO DEVISE A
 9 PLAN FOR MEETING THOSE NEEDS.

10
 11 WHEREAS, there are substantial numbers of children in
 12 Montana whose first language is a language other than
 13 English or who are of a limited English-speaking ability;
 14 and

15 WHEREAS, there is substantial evidence that such
 16 children are under severe educational handicap if they are
 17 expected to perform in classes designed for native English
 18 speakers before they have mastered the language; and

19 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States, in the
 20 case Lau vs. Nichols, has determined that special bilingual
 21 instruction is a fundamental right of such children and that
 22 school districts which fail to provide special bilingual
 23 education to allow such children to achieve the level of
 24 mastery of English necessary for full participation in
 25 regular classroom instruction have violated the civil rights

1 of such children; and
 2 WHEREAS, language is an integral aspect of culture, and
 3 the State Constitution recognizes the distinct and unique
 4 cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed
 5 in its educational goals to the preservation of their
 6 cultural integrity; and

7 WHEREAS, there is need for comprehensive statewide
 8 analysis to determine which schools and language groups
 9 require such bilingual education provisions, necessary
 10 support for materials development, need for teacher training
 11 and supervision, and costs that may be incurred; and

12 WHEREAS, the state wishes to assume a position of
 13 leadership in recognizing the unique educational needs of
 14 bilingual children and in promoting educational planning and
 15 policy for the implementation of bilingual instruction
 16 programs.

17
 18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 19 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

20 That the Superintendent of Public Instruction is
 21 directed to conduct a statewide study that will:

22 (1) determine the number of bilingual or limited
 23 English-speaking children in the state and determine their
 24 distribution by language and location;

25 (2) determine the unmet needs for bilingual

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1 instruction throughout the state;

2 (3) identify existing resources available for
3 implementation of bilingual instruction programs for such
4 children;

5 (4) establish a plan by which schools in the state may
6 provide bilingual instruction for all bilingual and limited
7 English-speaking children in the state.

-End-

Approved by Committee
on Education

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA DIRECTING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF BILINGUAL AND LIMITED ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHILDREN IN MONTANA SCHOOLS AND TO DEVISE A PLAN FOR MEETING THOSE NEEDS.

WHEREAS, there are substantial numbers of children in Montana whose first language is a language other than English or who are of a limited English-speaking ability; and

WHEREAS, there is substantial evidence that such children are under severe educational handicap if they are expected to perform in classes designed for native English speakers before they have mastered the language; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case Lau vs. Nichols, has determined that special bilingual instruction is a fundamental right of such children and that school districts which fail to provide special bilingual education to allow such children to achieve the level of mastery of English necessary for full participation in regular classroom instruction have violated the civil rights

of such children; and

WHEREAS, language is an integral aspect of culture, and the State Constitution recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity; and

WHEREAS, there is need for comprehensive statewide analysis to determine which schools and language groups require such bilingual education provisions, necessary support for materials development, need for teacher training and supervision, and costs that may be incurred; and

WHEREAS, the state wishes to assume a position of leadership in recognizing the unique educational needs of bilingual children and in promoting educational planning and policy for the implementation of bilingual instruction programs.

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

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