## Senate Joint Resolution 22

## In The Senate

February 17, 198		Introduced and referred to Committee on Education and Cultural Resources.
February 20, 198		Committee recommend bill do pass as amended.
February 21, 198		Bill printed and placed on members' desks.
February 23, 198	81,	Second reading do pass.
February 24, 198	81	Correctly engrossed.
February 25, 198	81	Third reading passed.
	In The House	

March 3, 1981	Introduced and referred to Committee on Education.
April 23, 1981	Died in Committee.

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1	Sunt Joint RESOLUTION NO. 22
2	INTRODUCED BY Bol Brown En Smith
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4	A JCINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
5	REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTAMA REQUESTING
6	ASSIGNMENT OF AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY
7	MONTANA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING SYSTEM.
3	
9	WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Montana
10	requires that the Legislature provide a basic system of free
11	quality public elementary and secondary schools; and
12	WHEREAS, to partially fulfill this requirement, the
13	Legislature assigned the Board of Public Education the
14	responsibility of adopting a basic instructional program for
15	pupils and other appropriate standards to be incorporated in
16	state standards for accreditation; and
17	WHEREAS, to further fulfill this responsibility, the
10	Lagislature has established a school finance system to
19	assure a foundation level of support for a uniform system of
213	free public schools sufficient for the education of all
<b>21</b>	school-age children of the state; and
22	WHEREAS, the foundation program does not provide
23	adequate funding to accomplish these mendates; and
24	WHEREAS, as a result, mandated budgets other than the
25	general fund budget, which funds the operation and

maintenance of school districts, are assuming increasing 1 proportions of the total educational expenditures of the state: and WHEREAS, school general fund budgets have increased while school enrollments have decreased; and WHEREAS, school funding must be reevaluated in light of changes in the tax structure of the state and the expressed concerns with the heavy reliance placed on the property tax for public school funding; and 10 WHEREAS, there are concerns with the constitutionality of the current structure of the state foundation program in 11 12 regard to educational equity. 13 NOW. THEREFORE, SE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: (1) That an appropriate interim committee he assigned 16 to study Montana's public school financing system. (2) That the study include a consideration of at least 18 the following: (a) the relationship between the basic educational 23 21 program established in the standards for accreditation and 22 the foundation program amount; 23 (b) mill value trends in Montana school districts; (c) revenue sources available to reduce reliance on 24

the property tax for public school funding; and

- 1 (d) constitutional implications for public school
  2 financing.
- 3 (3) That the committee submit to the 48th Legislature
  4 a report of its findings under subsection (2) and other
  5 pertinent findings and recommendations regarding the funding
  6 of public schools in Montana.

-End-

47th Legislature

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general fund

SJR 0022/02

Approved by Committee on Education

1	SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22
2	INTRODUCED BY B. BROWN, E. SMITH
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18	Legislature has established a school finance system to
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21	school-age children of the state; and
22	WHEREAS, the foundation program does not provide
23	adequate funding to accomplish these mandates; and
24	WHEREAS, as a result, mandated budgets other than the

budget, which funds the operation and

1	maintenance of school districts, are assuming increasing
2	proportions of the total educational expenditures of the
3	state; and
4	WHEREAS, school general fund budgets have increased
5	while school enrollments have decreased; and
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7	changes in the tax structure of the state and the expressed
В	concerns with the heavy reliance placed on the property tax
9	for public school funding <del>t-and</del>
ıo	WHEREASythere-are-concerns-with-the-constitutionality
11	of-the-current-structure-of-the-state-faundation-programin
12	regard-to-educational-equity.
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15	OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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.7	to study Montana's public school financing system.
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9	the following:
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21	program established in the standards for accreditation and

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the property tax for public school funding; and

(b) mill value trends in Montana school districts;

(c) revenue sources available to reduce reliance on

the foundation program amount:

SJR 0022/02

- 1 (d) constitutional implications for public school
  2 financing.
  - (3) That the committee submit to the 48th Legislature a report of its findings under subsection (2) and other pertinent findings and recommendations regarding the funding of public schools in Montana.

-End-

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