

Senate Joint Resolution 22

In The Senate

February 17, 1981	Introduced and referred to Committee on Education and Cultural Resources.
February 20, 1981	Committee recommend bill do pass as amended.
February 21, 1981	Bill printed and placed on members' desks.
February 23, 1981	Second reading do pass.
February 24, 1981	Correctly engrossed.
February 25, 1981	Third reading passed.

In The House

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

1 *Amended* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *22*  
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Bob Brown, Ed Smith*

3  
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING  
 6 ASSIGNMENT OF AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY  
 7 MONTANA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING SYSTEM.

8  
 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  
 18 Legislature has established a school finance system to  
 19 assure a foundation level of support for a uniform system of  
 20 free public schools sufficient for the education of all  
 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  
 25 general fund 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

6 WHEREAS, school funding must be reevaluated in light of  
 7 changes in the tax structure of the state and the expressed  
 8 concerns with the heavy reliance placed on the property tax  
 9 for public school funding; and

10 WHEREAS, there are concerns with the constitutionality  
 11 of the current structure of the state foundation program in  
 12 regard to educational equity.

13  
 14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
 15 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

16 (1) That an appropriate interim committee be assigned  
 17 to study Montana's public school financing system.

18 (2) That the study include a consideration of at least  
 19 the following:

20 (a) the relationship between the basic educational  
 21 program established in the standards for accreditation and  
 22 the foundation program amount;

23 (b) mill value trends in Montana school districts;

24 (c) revenue sources available to reduce reliance on  
 25 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-

Approved by Committee  
on Education

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2 INTRODUCED BY B. BROWN, E. SMITH  
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