

HOUSE BILL 392

Introduced by Gervais, et al.

1/30	Introduced
1/30	Referred to Appropriations
1/30	First Reading
2/10	Hearing
2/16	Tabled in Committee

1 House BILL NO. 392
2 INTRODUCED BY Steven Russell Yellowstone
3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY TO
5 THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
6 NONBENEFICIARY STUDENTS ATTENDING TRIBALLY CONTROLLED
7 COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN MONTANA; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR
8 RECEIPT OF MONEY; PROVIDING FOR A REVERSION OF UNSPENT FUNDS
9 TO THE GENERAL FUND; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE
10 DATE."

11
12 WHEREAS, seven tribally controlled community colleges
13 exist in the State of Montana; and

14 WHEREAS, the tribal community colleges provide a
15 quality, low-cost, and accessible college program to Indian
16 and non-Indian students each year; and

17 WHEREAS, approximately 400 of these students are
18 nonbeneficiary students who do not qualify for financial
19 support through the Bureau of Indian Affairs or under the
20 Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of
21 1978; and

22 WHEREAS, the tribal community colleges currently
23 subsidize the costs of providing services to nonbeneficiary
24 students, allowing them to continue their educations at a
25 lower cost to the state; and

1 WHEREAS, without support, tribal community colleges will
2 not be able to serve nonbeneficiary students without
3 increasing student fees, which may result in students
4 dropping out of college.
5

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation.** (1) There is
8 appropriated from the general fund to the board of regents
9 \$500,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 1995, to provide
10 financial assistance to tribally controlled community
11 colleges for enrolled nonbeneficiary students.

12 (2) Each tribal community college shall apply to the
13 board of regents, and the money in subsection (1) must be
14 distributed on a prorated basis according to each tribal
15 community college's previous year's nonbeneficiary student
16 enrollment.

17 (3) An expenditure from this appropriation is
18 contingent upon the tribal community college:

19 (a) being accredited or being a candidate for
20 accreditation by the northwest association of schools and
21 colleges;

22 (b) entering into a contract or a state-tribal
23 cooperative agreement, pursuant to Title 18, chapter 11,
24 with the board of regents to provide the board with
25 information relating to eligibility of nonbeneficiary

1 students and documentation on the curriculum to ensure that
2 the content and quality of courses offered by the tribal
3 community college are consistent with the standards adopted
4 by the Montana university system; and

5 (c) filing with the board of regents evidence that the
6 college's enrollment of Indian students is at least 51% as
7 required by the Tribally Controlled Community College
8 Assistance Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. 1804.

9 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that the
10 appropriation in subsection (1) be considered an amount in
11 addition to the Montana university system budget
12 appropriation for the biennium ending June 30, 1995.

13 (5) All funds appropriated under subsection (1) that
14 are unspent revert to the general fund.

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

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