

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

Introduced by Simon, et al.

12/07	Introduced
12/07	Referred to Education & Cultural Resources
12/07	First Reading
12/10	Hearing
12/10	Tabled in Committee

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6  
2 INTRODUCED BY Sen. Roney  
3  
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN  
6 INTERIM STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL FOR COST SAVINGS THROUGH THE  
7 RESTRUCTURING OF VARIOUS SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNCTIONS OR  
8 THROUGH THE REORGANIZATION OF THE STATE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL  
9 DISTRICTS; AND REPORTING THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE  
10 54TH LEGISLATURE.

11  
12 WHEREAS, there is widespread interest among Montana  
13 citizens in recognizing the economic reality of limited  
14 financial resources within the state, even for funding such  
15 an important public obligation as the state's public school  
16 system; and

17 WHEREAS, much public dialogue about conserving the  
18 state's limited resources and providing a basic quality  
19 public education system has centered on the possibility of  
20 more cost-effective organization and administration of the  
21 state's existing school districts; and

22 WHEREAS, various options for reorganizing the state's  
23 school districts exist in the states surrounding Montana,  
24 such as state structures that mandate K-12 unified districts  
25 or countywide school districts; and

1 WHEREAS, Montana policymakers have never conducted a  
2 full investigation of the possible ways that school  
3 districts could reorganize or restructure district functions  
4 for both the benefit of taxpayers and the educational  
5 benefit of pupils; and

6 WHEREAS, equalization of school district expenditures  
7 per pupil is an important consideration of the courts in  
8 evaluating the constitutionality of the funding system; and

9 WHEREAS, the per-pupil costs of many school functions  
10 are higher in smaller school districts; and

11 WHEREAS, it is possible and desirable to organize the  
12 state's school districts in ways that can deliver an  
13 equitable public education in a more cost-effective manner  
14 while maintaining as many attendance units as are in the  
15 best interests of the pupils who now attend those units.

16  
17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
18 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

19 That the Legislative Council assign an appropriate  
20 interim committee to study the potential for cost savings  
21 through the restructuring of various school district  
22 functions or through the reorganization of the state's  
23 public school districts.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee consider the  
25 following:

1       (1) the potential for cost savings through various  
2 types of restructuring and funding of school district  
3 functions, specifically in the areas of purchasing supplies  
4 and services, accounting and other administrative services,  
5 health services, special education services, curriculum  
6 planning and development, data processing,  
7 telecommunications and distance learning, inservice  
8 training, and delivery of specialized programs, such as  
9 gifted and talented programs and vocational programs; and

10       (2) the possible social and economic impacts on the  
11 communities that might result from various school district  
12 reorganization plans.

13       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee  
14 report its findings and recommendations and any proposed  
15 legislation to the 54th Legislature.

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