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House BILL NO. 516  
Cobb

INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT FROM A MONTANA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR COSTS INCURRED IN PROVIDING REMEDIAL COURSEWORK FOR A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT A UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM WHO GRADUATED FROM A MONTANA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL; REQUIRING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO REIMBURSE A UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM FROM THE BASE AID ENTITLEMENT OF A MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL; AND AMENDING SECTION 20-9-346, MCA."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Reimbursement for costs of remedial coursework at university system unit.** (1) The board of regents may require that each unit of the university system:

(a) identify the first-year full-time students who have graduated from a Montana public high school within the last 2 years and who have taken remedial coursework at the unit during a school fiscal year;

(b) determine the cost of the remedial coursework in excess of the payments made by a student for the credit hours associated with the coursework; and

(c) send to the superintendent of public instruction each school fiscal year the information regarding the first-year, full-time student's name at the time of graduation from a Montana public high school, the name of the high school from which the student graduated, and the cost of the student's remedial coursework as determined pursuant to subsection (2)(b).

(2) The superintendent of public instruction shall:

(a) deduct the costs reported from each unit of the university system under the provisions of subsection (1) from the high school district's annual entitlement for BASE aid; and

(b) reimburse the unit of the university system from the state equalization aid account for the amount deducted from the district's BASE aid payment.

**Section 2.** Section 20-9-346, MCA, is amended to read:

1           **"20-9-346. Duties of superintendent of public instruction for state and county equalization aid**  
 2 **distribution.** The superintendent of public instruction shall administer the distribution of the state and county  
 3 equalization aid by:

4           (1) establishing the annual entitlement of each district and county to state and county equalization  
 5 aid, based on the data reported in the retirement and general fund budgets for each district that have been  
 6 duly adopted for the current school fiscal year and verified by the superintendent of public instruction;

7           (2) for the purposes of state reimbursements for school facilities, ~~limiting the distribution from the~~  
 8 ~~state equalization aid account to no more than \$1 million for the school fiscal year ending June 30, 1994,~~  
 9 ~~and to no more than \$2 million for the biennium ending June 30, 1995,~~ to the districts that are eligible  
 10 under the provisions of 20-9-366 through 20-9-371 by:

11           (a) determining by May 1 of each school fiscal year the number of mills levied in each district for  
 12 debt service on bonds that were issued as provided in 20-9-370(2)(b)(i) or (2)(b)(ii) and that qualify for  
 13 guaranteed tax base aid under the provisions of 20-9-366 through 20-9-369 and 20-9-370;

14           (b) based on the limitation of state equalization aid available for debt service purposes in this  
 15 subsection (2), determining the percentage of state equalization aid that each eligible district must receive  
 16 for the school fiscal year;

17           (c) distributing that amount to each eligible district for reducing the property tax for the debt  
 18 service fund for the ensuing school fiscal year; and

19           (d) at the end of the school fiscal year ending June 30, 1994, determining whether there is an  
 20 unused portion of the amount of state equalization aid appropriated in this subsection (2) to be carried into  
 21 the next school fiscal year for the purposes of this subsection (2);

22           (3) deducting from a high school district's BASE aid entitlement any reimbursement to a unit of the  
 23 university system for the purpose provided in [section 1];

24           (4) distributing by electronic transfer the BASE aid and state advances for county equalization, for  
 25 each district or county entitled to the aid, to the county treasurer of the respective county or county where  
 26 the district is located, in accordance with the distribution ordered by the board of public education;

27           ~~(4)(5)~~ keeping a record of the full and complete data concerning money available for state  
 28 equalization aid, state advances for county equalization, and the entitlements for BASE aid of the districts  
 29 of the state;

30           ~~(5)(6)~~ reporting to the board of public education the estimated amount that will be available for

1 state equalization aid; and

2 ~~(6)~~(7) reporting to the office of budget and program planning as provided in 17-7-111:

3 (a) the figures and data available concerning distributions of state and county equalization aid  
4 during the preceding 2 school fiscal years;

5 (b) the amount of state equalization aid then available;

6 (c) the apportionment made of the available money but not yet distributed;

7 (d) the latest estimate of accruals of money available for state equalization aid; and

8 (e) the amount of state advances and repayment for county equalization."

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10 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
11 integral part of Title 20, chapter 25, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 25, apply to [section 1].

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