

Amendment - 1st Reading/2nd House-blue - Requested by: (S) Education and Cultural Resources

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Pad McCracken,

HB0151.002.002

1

HOUSE BILL NO. 151

2

INTRODUCED BY C. KEOUGH, D. BEDEY, J. FULLER, L. JONES, E. MATTHEWS, J. WINDY BOY, B.

3

BARKER

4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING EDUCATION LAWS RELATED TO
6 RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION AND THE MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND; MAKING
7 EDUCATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS ELIGIBLE FOR THE QUALITY EDUCATOR PAYMENT
8 AND THE QUALITY EDUCATOR LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; EXPANDING THE TYPES OF
9 EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES THAT CAN RECEIVE INCENTIVES FOR MEETING STARTING TEACHER PAY
10 BENCHMARKS AND THAT CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM; ALLOWING
11 THE MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND TO TRANSPORT RESIDENT STUDENTS BETWEEN
12 HOME AND THE SCHOOL BY SCHOOL BUS; AMENDING SECTIONS 20-4-502, 20-4-503, 20-4-702, 20-8-
13 121, 20-9-324, AND 20-9-327, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

14

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

16

17 **Section 1.** Section 20-4-502, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"20-4-502. Definitions.** For the purposes of this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the
19 following definitions apply:

20 (1) "Education cooperative" means a cooperative of Montana public schools as described in 20-7-
21 451.

22 (2) "Educational loans" means all loans made pursuant to a federal loan program, except federal
23 parent loans for undergraduate students (PLUS) loans, as provided in 20 U.S.C. 1078-2.

24 (3) "Federal loan program" means educational loans authorized by 20 U.S.C. 1071, et seq., 20
25 U.S.C. 1087a, et seq., and 20 U.S.C. 1087aa, et seq.

26 (4) "Impacted school" means:

27 (a) a special education cooperative;

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1 by the department of corrections.

2 (d) The quality educator payment for the Montana youth challenge program must be distributed to
3 that program by the department of military affairs.

4 (3) The quality educator payment is calculated as provided in 20-9-306, using the number of full-
5 time equivalent educators, as reported to the superintendent of public instruction for accreditation purposes in
6 the previous school year, each of whom:

7 (a) holds a valid certificate under the provisions of 20-4-106 and is employed by an entity listed in
8 subsection (1) of this section in a position that requires an educator license in accordance with the
9 administrative rules adopted by the board of public education;

10 (b) (i) is a licensed professional under 37-8-405, 37-8-415, 37-11-301, 37-15-301, 37-17-302, 37-
11 24-301, 37-25-302, 37-39-308, 37-39-309, or 37-39-311; and

12 (ii) is employed by an entity listed in subsection (1) to provide services to students; or

13 (c) (i) holds an American Indian language and culture specialist license; and

14 (ii) is employed by an entity listed in subsection (1) to provide services to students in an Indian
15 language immersion program pursuant to Title 20, chapter 7, part 14; or

16 (d) meets the qualifications for educational sign language interpreting established by the board of
17 public education and is employed by an entity listed in subsection (1) to provide educational sign language
18 interpreting for deaf and hard-of-hearing students."

19

20 **COORDINATION SECTION. Section 7. Coordination instruction.** (1) If both House Bill No. 252 and
21 [this act] are passed and approved and if House Bill No. 252 contains a section amending 20-9-324, then
22 [section 5 of this act], amending 20-9-324, is void.

23 (2) If both House Bill No. 252 and [this act] are passed and approved and if House Bill No. 252
24 contains a section amending 20-9-327, then [section 6 of this act], amending 20-9-327, is void and the section
25 in House Bill No. 252 amending 20-9-327 must be amended to include a new subsection (3)(b)(iv) that reads as
26 follows:

27 (iv) is employed by an educational entity listed in subsection (1) to provide educational sign

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1 language interpreting for deaf and hard-of-hearing students and meets the qualifications for educational sign
2 language interpreting established by the board of public education."

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4 **NEW SECTION.** **Section 8. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

5 - END -

AMEND