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HOUSE BILL NO. 602

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INTRODUCED BY G. OVERSTREET

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
5 BOARD OF TRUSTEES WHEN A DISTRICT INSTITUTES A REDUCTION IN FORCE DUE TO
6 INSUFFICIENT FUNDING; REQUIRING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO PLACE THE NOTICE OF
7 REDUCTION IN FORCE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AND TO PROVIDE
8 AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Reduction in force -- notice to board of trustees required.** (1) When a
13 school district institutes a reduction in force of teachers because of insufficient funding to continue employment
14 of the affected teachers, written notice must be provided to the school district board of trustees of the district.

15 (2) The notice must be provided by the district superintendent or, in a school district without a
16 district superintendent, by the principal.

17 (3) On receipt of the written notice required under subsection (1), the board of trustees shall
18 include the reduction in force notice as an item on the agenda for the next school board meeting and provide an
19 opportunity for public comment on that agenda item.

20 (4) The requirements of this section do not apply to the nonrenewal of a teaching contract for a
21 specific teacher pursuant to 20-4-204.

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23 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
24 integral part of Title 20, chapter 4, part 2, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 4, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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26 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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