

HOUSE BILL NO. 557

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING EDUCATION LAWS TO LIMIT THE STATE PROMOTION OF TEACHER ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS; PROHIBITING PUPIL-INSTRUCTION-RELATED DAYS FROM ~~BEING USED FOR ATTENDING STATE MEETINGS OF TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING POLITICAL OR ORGANIZED LABOR ACTIVITY~~; REMOVING THE MANDATE THAT TRUSTEES CLOSE SCHOOLS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS; ENSURING THAT PUPIL-INSTRUCTION-RELATED DAYS AND TRUSTEES' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS ALIGN WITH THE STANDARDS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 20-1-304 AND 20-4-304, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, pupil-instruction-related days are supported with state and local tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, recent professional development opportunities for teachers utilizing pupil-instruction-related days included political activity and unnecessarily divisive partisan content.

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

Section 1. Section 20-1-304, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-1-304. Pupil-instruction-related day. A pupil-instruction-related day is a day of teacher activities devoted to improving the quality of instruction in alignment with the standards for professional development adopted by the board of public education. The activities may include but are not limited to inservice training;

1 attending state meetings of teacher organizations, , attending instructional and professional development
2 meetings, and conducting parent conferences. The activities may not include attending state meetings of
3 teacher organizations. Pupil-instruction-related days may not include political activity, including activities
4 primarily intended to support or oppose a candidate, political committee, or ballot issue, or the membership or
5 procedural activities of an organized labor organization. A maximum of 7 pupil-instruction-related days may be
6 conducted during a school year, with a minimum of 3 of the days for instructional and professional development
7 meetings or other appropriate inservice training, if the days are planned in accordance with the policy adopted
8 by the board of public education. The days may not be included as a part of the required minimum aggregate
9 hours of pupil instruction."

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11 **Section 2.** Section 20-4-304, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"20-4-304. Attendance at instructional and professional development meetings.** The trustees of
13 a school district shall close the schools of the district for the annual instructional and professional development
14 ~~meetings of teachers' organizations.~~ The trustees of a school district may close the schools of the district to
15 allow teachers to attend instructional and professional development meetings in alignment with the professional
16 development plan adopted by the trustees under the professional development standards of the board of public
17 education. If the district uses pupil-instruction-related days for a teacher's attendance at instructional and
18 professional development meetings, the meetings must conform with the requirements of 20-1-304. A teacher
19 may attend instructional and professional development meetings without loss of salary or attend other
20 appropriate inservice training that may be prescribed by the trustees without loss of salary. If a teacher does not
21 attend, the teacher may not be paid."

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

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