

SENATE BILL NO. 253

INTRODUCED BY S. VINTON

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATIONS; REQUIRING A STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION TO APPLY FOR CERTIFICATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION; ENSURING A PARENT'S RIGHT TO SELECT AN EDUCATION PROVIDER; INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATIONS; REVISING A DEFINITION; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT AN APPROPRIATION; ~~AND~~ AMENDING SECTIONS 15-30-3102, 15-30-3103, 15-30-3105, AND 15-30-3106, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES."

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

Section 1. Section 15-30-3102, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-30-3102. (Temporary) Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Department" means the department of revenue provided for in 2-15-1301.
- (2) "Donation" means a gift of cash.
- (3) "Eligible student" means a student who is a Montana resident and who is 5 years of age or older on or before September 10 of the year of attendance and has not yet reached 19 years of age.
- (4) "Innovative educational program" includes any of the following:
 - (a) transformational learning as defined in 20-7-1602;
 - (b) advanced opportunity as defined in 20-7-1503;
 - (c) any program, service, instructional methodology, or adaptive equipment used to expand opportunity for a child with a disability as defined in 20-7-401;
 - (d) any courses provided through work-based learning partnerships or for postsecondary credit or career certification;
 - (e) technology enhancements, including but not limited to any expenditure incurred for purposes

Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: David Bedey - (H) Appropriations

- 2025

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Drafter: Pad McCracken,

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(4) the number and amount of scholarships provided to each qualified education provider that is not a tutor in the previous calendar year; and

(5) hyperlinks to each student scholarship organization's website. (Terminates December 31, 2029--sec. 20, Ch. 480, L. 2021, sec. 7, Ch. 558, L. 2023.)"

~~NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. IT IS THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATURE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF [THIS ACT] WITH ONE HALF OF A FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT POSITION.~~

NEW SECTION. Section 5. Appropriation. (1) There is appropriated \$206,000 from the general fund to the department of revenue for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, for the purpose of implementing [this act].

(2) The legislature intends that this is a one-time-only appropriation.

COORDINATION SECTION. Section 6. Coordination instruction. If House Bill No. 2 and [this act] are both passed and approved, then the appropriation in [section 5 of this act] supersedes contingency language in House Bill No. 2 related to [this act] and contingency language in House Bill No. 2 related to [this act] is void.

NEW SECTION. Section 7. Effective dates. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is effective July 1, 2025.

(2) [Sections 1 through 4] are effective October 1, 2025.

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