

1 SENATE BILL NO. 253
2 INTRODUCED BY S. VINTON
3

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

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

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

16 **"15-30-3102. (Temporary) Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

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

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

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Pad McCracken,

SB0253.002.002

1 (4) the number and amount of scholarships provided to each qualified education provider that is
2 not a tutor in the previous calendar year; and
3 (5) hyperlinks to each student scholarship organization's website. (Terminates December 31,
4 2029--sec. 20, Ch. 480, L. 2021, sec. 7, Ch. 558, L. 2023.)"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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