

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 171

2 INTRODUCED BY D. BEDEY

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING A CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND
5 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
6 LEGISLATURE TO COORDINATE AND IMPROVE THE STATE'S SYSTEMS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
7 TO ENSURE THAT MONTANA'S WORKFORCE NEEDS ARE MET; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND
8 PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND A TERMINATION DATE."

9

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

11

12 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Career and technical education and workforce development**

13 **commission.** (1) There is a career and technical education and workforce development commission. The
14 commission is allocated to the legislative services division for staffing services and administrative purposes only.

15 (2) The commission consists of:

16 (a) four members of the house of representatives, selected by the speaker of the house of
17 representatives in consultation with the house minority leader, no more than two of whom may be from the same
18 political party;

19 (b) four members of the senate, selected by the committee on committees in consultation with the senate
20 minority leader, no more than two of whom may be from the same political party;

21 (c) the following as ex officio, nonvoting members of the commission:

22 (i) the commissioner of higher education or the commissioner's designee;

23 (ii) the superintendent of public instruction or the superintendent's designee; and

24 (iii) the commissioner of labor and industry or the commissioner's designee.

25 (3) Appointments under subsection (2) must be made within 60 days after [the effective date of this act].

26 (4) A vacancy on the commission must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

27 (5) The commission shall select a presiding officer from among its legislative members.

28 (6) The commission shall meet at least quarterly.

29 (7) Decisions of the commission must be made by majority vote of the commission members.

30 (8) Members of the commission must be compensated as provided in 2-15-124 and must be reimbursed

1 for travel expenses as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. Members of the commission who are full-time
2 salaried officers or employees of this state or of any political subdivision of this state are entitled to their regular
3 compensation. Legislator members must be compensated as provided in 5-2-302.

4

5 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Duties.** (1) The commission shall:

6 (a) review existing career and technical education and workforce programs, including K-12, higher
7 education, and job training programs;

8 (b) examine current and future workforce needs of the state;

9 (c) review efforts undertaken in other states and nations that have proven effective at strengthening
10 workforce development and consider their applicability in Montana;

11 (d) consider the role that businesses and employers can play in coordination with state efforts;

12 (e) identify opportunities to coordinate the state's education and workforce development systems and
13 ensure these systems are nimble and responsive to local economic needs and changing times; and

14 (f) prepare a report of findings and recommendations for submission to the 67th legislature, including:

15 (i) concrete proposals for improving and expanding workforce training opportunities for Montanans
16 whose talents and aspirations do not require education at a 4-year college;

17 (ii) any statutory changes that the commission determines would benefit Montana's workforce
18 development systems.

19 (2) In order to better fulfill its duties, the commission is encouraged to:

20 (a) contract with or otherwise utilize subject matter experts to assist in the commission's work; and

21 (b) include in its explorations and deliberations representatives of growing industries and trade and labor
22 organizations invested in the development of a skilled workforce.

23

24 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the
25 legislative services division for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for the purposes of funding the commission and the
26 study as provided in [section 1].

27

28 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Contingent voidness.** (1) Pursuant to Joint Rule 40-65, if [this act] does
29 not include an appropriation prior to being transmitted to the governor, then [this act] is void.

30 (2) If the appropriation in [section 3] is vetoed, then [this act] is void.

