

HOUSE BILL NO. 754

INTRODUCED BY S. VINTON, J. BACHMEIER

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
5 RESTRUCTURING REVIEW COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DUTIES;
6 PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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8 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents and the Legislature restructured the Montana University System 25
9 years ago; and

10 WHEREAS, a number of the rationales for that restructuring continue to be areas of concern regarding
11 the Montana University System; and

12 WHEREAS, no comprehensive examination of the impacts of the Montana University System
13 restructuring has been conducted.

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

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17 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Montana university system restructuring review commission --**
18 **membership.** (1) There is a Montana university system restructuring review commission. The commission is
19 allocated to the legislative services division for staffing services and administrative purposes only.

20 (2) The commission consists of the following members:

21 (a) four members of the house of representatives, two of whom must be appointed by the speaker of the
22 house and two of whom must be appointed by the house minority leader;

23 (b) four members of the senate, two of whom must be appointed by the senate president and two of
24 whom must be appointed by the senate minority leader;

25 (c) a member of the board of regents, appointed by the presiding officer of the board of regents;

26 (d) a member of the board of public education, appointed by the presiding officer of the board of public
27 education;

28 (e) the president of Montana associated students, or the president's designee;

29 (f) two members appointed by the governor; and

30 (g) two members of the public, one of whom must be appointed by the senate president, and one of



1 whom must be appointed by the speaker of the house.

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

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

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

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

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

7 (8) Members of the commission must be compensated as provided in 2-15-124 and must be reimbursed
8 for travel expenses as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. Members of the commission who are full-time
9 salaried officers or employees of this state or of any political subdivision of this state are entitled to their regular
10 compensation. Legislator members must be compensated as provided in 5-2-302.

11 (9) The legislative services division shall provide staff assistance to the task force. The legislative fiscal
12 division, the governor's office of budget and program planning, and the Montana university system shall provide
13 information upon request.

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15 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Duties.** The commission shall:

16 (1) review the history and reasons for the Montana university system restructuring enacted by the board
17 of regents in 1994 and adopted by the legislature through Senate Bill 156 of the 1995 legislative session;

18 (2) analyze the impacts of the restructuring on the efficiency and effectiveness of the university system;

19 (3) consider how the university system addresses increases and decreases in enrollment as a system
20 and at the campus level;

21 (4) examine the impacts of the restructuring on 2-year education programs, including the community
22 colleges;

23 (5) determine whether the restructuring has resulted in positive, negative, or mixed outcomes for the
24 university system and the state as a whole;

25 (6) review the governance and organizational structures of university systems in other states and
26 consider whether a different structure would lead to a more effective and efficient university system in Montana;
27 and

28 (7) prepare a report of findings and recommendations for submission to the 67th legislature.

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30 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$57,000 from the general fund to the

1 legislative services division for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for the purposes of funding the commission and the
2 study as provided in [sections 1 and 2].

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

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

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8 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective dates. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is
9 effective on passage and approval.

10 (2) [Section 3] is effective July 1, 2019.

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12 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Termination. [This act] terminates June 30, 2021.

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