

## 1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35

2 INTRODUCED BY B. MOLNAR

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND VOCATIONAL  
6 TRAINING FOR CERTAIN INMATES; AND REQUIRING THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE  
7 REPORTED TO THE 69TH LEGISLATURE.

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9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
10 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory  
12 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study educational  
13 opportunities and vocational training for inmates who are within 6 months of release, including but not limited to:

- 14 (1) in-prison opportunities, such as barbering, tattooing, and cosmetology, that can lead to  
15 licensure when the inmate is released;
- 16 (2) the availability of skilled-trade training programs, both private, public, and union-based;
- 17 (3) the availability of unskilled trades;
- 18 (4) availability and access to online certificate training programs;
- 19 (5) how existing facilities, such as high school or college shops or other public or private facilities  
20 near prerelease centers, might be used during nonschool hours or outside of regular hours to teach inmates  
21 skills; and
- 22 (6) if applicable, access to business classes to help inmates start businesses as an alternative  
23 option when employers are reluctant to hire a person with a criminal history.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study involve input from the Department of Corrections, the  
25 Department of Labor and Industry, the Office of Public Instruction, the Commissioner of Higher Education, labor  
26 representatives, representatives from the state and local chambers of commerce, and other stakeholders  
27 identified by the committee.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be

1 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
3 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2024.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
5 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 69th Legislature.

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