

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 445

2 INTRODUCED BY Z. WIRTH, L. SCHUBERT, M. VINTON, E. ALBUS, K. LOVE, G. OVERSTREET, T.

3 SHARP, E. TILLEMAN, S. GIST, J. SCHILLINGER, L. DEMING, P. FIELDER, G. KMETZ, G. PARRY, B.

4 BEARD

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6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION TO
7 ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION IN READING AND WRITING IN CURSIVE
8 HANDWRITING TO STUDENTS; AMENDING SECTION 20-1-102, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
9 DATE."

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

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13 **Section 1.** Section 20-1-102, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"20-1-102. Legislative goals for public elementary and secondary schools.** It is the goal of the
15 legislature that Montana's public elementary and secondary school system, in cooperation with parents or
16 guardians, create a learning environment for each student that:

17 (1) develops a sound foundation for literacy and numeracy during the early years that is built upon
18 on and reinforced throughout the educational experience;

19 (2) furthers the ability to reason critically, creatively, and strategically;

20 (3) fosters the ability to effectively understand and communicate ideas, knowledge, and thoughts;

21 (4) develops a sense of personal and civic responsibility;

22 (5) provides an in-depth understanding of the American political, social, and economic systems
23 and the historical context from which they arose;

24 (6) provides familiarization with political, social, and economic systems found elsewhere in the
25 world;

26 (7) develops a strong work ethic, postsecondary readiness, and employment skills;

27 (8) encourages a healthy lifestyle; and

28 (9) supports instruction of financial literacy, where in which students obtain the knowledge and

1 skills required to succeed financially; and
2 (10) provides instruction for all students in reading and writing in cursive handwriting, to develop
3 cognitive and fine motor skills in young students, and to ensure that all students are able to read original
4 documents, such as the United States constitution, which are foundational to understanding the history and
5 contemporary context of the nation's government."

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7 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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