

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

House Bill Number 307

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Mariska Kecskes

House Committee: _____

Authored by: Mariska Kecskes

House: _____

Senate Committee: _____

Delegation: Great Falls

Senate: _____

Governor: _____

Referred to Committee: House Education Committee

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REQUIRE MANDATORY SERVICE IN
2 THE MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD FOR HIGH SCHOOL DROP OUTS"

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4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:
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6 SECTION 1: Findings. In 2005 state officials found that the drop out rate for Montana was roughly around
7 15%. While the rate is relatively low, many people think that it can still be lower. When teenagers drop out of
8 high school many troubles can arise in their lives. Recent dropouts will earn \$200,000 less than high school
9 graduates and over \$800,000 less than college graduates, and make up nearly half the heads of households on
10 welfare. Dropouts also make up nearly half the prison population in the United States. Yet, high school dropouts
11 can also cost the state. In 2004 more than 3,000 students didn't graduate from Montana's high schools costing
12 the state almost \$800 million in lost wages, taxes, and productivity over their lifetimes. While reasons for
13 dropouts can vary, many simply are not interested in school, have a substance abuse problem, or disciplinary
14 problems. and believe they'll be fine out on their own.
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16 SECTION 2: Action: to further deter students from dropping out of the Montana School System, the following
17 shall be made law.
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19 a.) Students choosing to drop out of high school must enroll in the Montana National Guard until they are
20 19 years old; in correlation of this, age and schooling requirements for the national guard will be modified for
21 high school drop outs specifically.
22

23 b.) Students under 18 will not be required to do oversea duty, unless they feel so inclined and have
24 parental approval
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26 c.) Students who are physically not eligible, do not complete, or simply refuse to join the national guard,
27 are then required to work in a public service organization until they're 19.
28

29 d.) Students who are exceptions are, but not limited to,; 1. Those who drop out as result of pregnancy 2.
30 Those who must drop out to support a family 3. Those who drop out for a steady job or apprenticeship.
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32 e.) Students must fill out paper work when dropping, so that they're enrollment in these programs will be
33 regulated and enforced. On this one can file to be an exception, or do public service.
34

35 f.) These will be reviewed by the Montana Board of education., and enforced by the department of Labor
36 and Industry/Department of military affairs depending on which option the student chooses.
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38 SECTION 3: Effective date. This bill will be enacted at the start of the 2007-2008 school year.
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