

HOUSE BILL NO. 531

INTRODUCED BY T. WOODS

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INFORMATION
5 SYSTEMS EFFICIENCY TASK FORCE; PROVIDING MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES FOR THE TASK FORCE;
6 REQUIRING THE TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR CONSOLIDATING THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY
7 SYSTEM'S ACADEMIC, FINANCIAL, AND HUMAN RESOURCE COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND INTEGRATING
8 THE CONSOLIDATED SYSTEMS WITH THE STATEWIDE ACCOUNTING, BUDGETING, AND HUMAN
9 RESOURCE SYSTEM TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY; REQUIRING THE TASK FORCE
10 TO PRESENT THE PLAN TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE GOVERNOR, AND
11 THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN
12 EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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14 WHEREAS, the Montana university system currently utilizes multiple implementations of computer
15 systems to manage academic, financial, and human resource information; and

16 WHEREAS, this creates inefficiencies resulting from needless duplication, difficulty in sharing information
17 across systems, and additional expense for data storage and management; and

18 WHEREAS, consolidating the university system implementations and integrating university system
19 accounting data with the statewide accounting, budgeting, and human resource system will improve efficiency
20 and transparency; and

21 WHEREAS, improving efficiency and transparency will help manage the costs of higher education and
22 allow for better allocation of precious state resources to benefit university students, faculty, staff, and
23 administrators, as well as Montana taxpayers.

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

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27 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Montana university system information systems efficiency task force**
28 **-- composition -- duties.** (1) There is a Montana university system information systems efficiency task force
29 created for the 2019-2020 interim for the purpose of increasing efficiency and transparency.

30 (2) The task force consists of the following members:

- 1 (a) one member of the board of regents of higher education;
- 2 (b) the commissioner of higher education or the commissioner's designee;
- 3 (c) two fiscal officers, one from each unit of the university system, appointed by the board of regents;
- 4 (d) two registrars, one from each unit of the university system, appointed by the board of regents;
- 5 (e) two members of the senate, one from the majority party and one from the minority party, appointed
- 6 by the president of the senate in consultation with the senate minority leader;
- 7 (f) two members of the house of representatives, one from the majority party and one from the minority
- 8 party, appointed by the speaker of the house in consultation with the house minority leader; and
- 9 (g) two representatives of the department of administration, one from the state information technology
- 10 services division and one from the state accounting bureau, appointed by the department head.
- 11 (3) The office of the commissioner of higher education shall provide staff and related support to the task
- 12 force.
- 13 (4) The task force shall:
- 14 (a) develop a plan for consolidating the Montana university system's academic, financial, and human
- 15 resource computer systems and integrating the consolidated systems with the statewide accounting, budgeting,
- 16 and human resource system; and
- 17 (b) no later than September 15, 2020, present its plan to:
- 18 (i) the board of regents;
- 19 (ii) the legislative finance committee; and
- 20 (iii) the governor and the governor's budget director.
- 21 (5) Unless otherwise provided by law, each member of the task force is entitled to be paid \$50 for each
- 22 day in which the member is engaged in the performance of duties under this section. Each member is also
- 23 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred while
- 24 engaged in task force duties. Members who are full-time salaried officers or employees of this state or of a
- 25 political subdivision of this state are not entitled to be compensated for their service as members except when
- 26 they perform their task force duties outside their regular working hours or during hours charged against their leave
- 27 time, but those members are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through
- 28 2-18-503.

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30 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$24,999 from the general fund to the

1 office of the commissioner of higher education for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, for the purpose described
2 in [section 1].

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4 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2019.

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6 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 2021.

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