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1	HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1
2	INTRODUCED BY K. KELKER
3	BY REQUEST OF THE SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION
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5	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
6	MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE NEEDS AND COSTS OF PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE
7	FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE
8	REPORTED TO THE 66TH LEGISLATURE.
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10	WHEREAS, the 2015-2016 School Funding Interim Commission examined several issues related to the
11	$costs\ of\ educational\ programs\ to\ provide\ for\ students\ with\ special\ needs,\ as\ defined\ in\ 20-9-309,\ and\ determined$
12	that these issues warrant further study.
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14	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15	STATE OF MONTANA:
16	That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
17	section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the needs and costs for programs to provide
18	for students with special needs, as defined in 20-9-309, such as:
19	(1) children with disabilities, as defined in 20-7-401;
20	(2) at-risk students, as defined in 20-1-101;
21	(3) students with limited English proficiency;
22	(4) children who are qualified for services under 29 U.S.C. 794; and
23	(5) gifted and talented children, as defined in 20-7-901.
24	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study:
25	(1) review existing studies of funding special education in Montana and their conclusions and
26	recommendations;
27	(2) review best practices for programs serving students with special needs;
28	(3) review the current funding mechanisms for programs serving students with special needs;
29	(4) examine recent expenditure patterns for programs serving students with special needs;
30	(5) review current programs utilized by Montana schools to serve students with special needs;

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(6) investigate alternative funding mechanisms for programs serving students with special needs, including mechanisms used by other states;

- (7) consider whether alternative funding mechanisms would provide a better match between funding levels for special education and actual costs of the mandated services;
- (8) consider whether alternative funding mechanisms would prevent tendencies to overidentify special education students or elevate levels of service beyond the areas of need in order to receive more funding;
- (9) consider whether alternative funding mechanisms would enhance the development of the full educational potential or the equality of educational opportunity for students with special needs; and
- (10) examine any other aspect related to the educational needs of students with special needs as determined by the assigned committee.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2018.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 66th Legislature.

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