

**Unofficial Draft Copy**

As of: August 22, 2008 (3:20pm)

LC0154

\*\*\*\* Joint Resolution No. \*\*\*\*

Introduced By \*\*\*\*\*

By Request of the Education and Local Government Interim  
Committee

A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana approving the Bitterroot Valley Community College District in Ravalli County.

WHEREAS, the Bitterroot Valley Community College Exploratory Committee, established in February 2006, filed a petition with the Board of Regents requesting an organizational election to approve a community college district in Ravalli County; and

WHEREAS, the petition met the requirements that the proposed community college district fall within preexisting, contiguous elementary school district boundaries, have a taxable value of at least \$10 million, and have at least 700 pupils regularly enrolled in public and private high schools within the district and the requirement that the petition be signed by at least 20% of the proposed district's registered voters; and

WHEREAS, prior to calling the organizational election, the Commissioner of Higher Education requested and received an Attorney General's Opinion (52 A.G. Op. 1), which clarified that the Board of Regents' recommendation, required pursuant to section 20-15-209, MCA, was nonbinding and declared that the Montana Legislature had final authority over the approval of a new community college district; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2007, the registered voters of Ravalli

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County approved the establishment of the proposed community college district by a vote of 52% to 48% and elected seven trustees for the proposed community college district; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2007, the community college districts coordinator for the Board of Regents certified that the proposal received a majority of the votes as required by section 20-15-209, MCA, and the Board of Regents acknowledged certification of the election on July 11, 2007; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2008, the Ravalli Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved a letter of support for the establishment of the proposed community college in Ravalli County; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2008, the Bitterroot Valley Exploratory Committee received a letter supporting the establishment of the proposed community college from Ravalli County Attorney George H. Corn; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2008, the Bitterroot Valley Community College Board of trustees received a letter from the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce supporting the establishment of the proposed community college ; and

WHEREAS, on XXXX, 2008, the Board of Regents provided the Legislature with its recommendation as required by section 20-15-209, MCA; and

WHEREAS, following presentations regarding the proposed community college district, the Postsecondary Education Budget and Policy Subcommittee on June 12, 2008, and the Education and Local Government Interim Committee on June 13, 2008, voted to

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draft legislation urging the 2009 Legislature to approve the establishment of a new community college district in Ravalli County.

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

That the Montana Legislature hereby approves the establishment of the Bitterroot Valley Community College District in Ravalli County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Board of Trustees of the Bitterroot Valley Community College District and to the Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners.

- END -

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