

1 SENATE BILL NO. 518
2 INTRODUCED BY T. MANZELLA, K. REGIER, C. GLIMM, G. HERTZ, D. LENZ, B. BROWN, F. MANDEVILLE,
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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS INVOLVING PARENTAL RIGHTS;
6 PROVIDING FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION; PROVIDING THAT PARENTS MAY
7 WITHDRAW THEIR CHILD FROM CERTAIN SCHOOL INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING FOR RELIGIOUS
8 PURPOSES; ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES; PROVIDING
9 THAT, WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES ARE PROHIBITED
10 FROM WITHHOLDING CERTAIN INFORMATION FROM PARENTS; PROVIDING REMEDIES FOR
11 VIOLATIONS; INCREASING A FILING FEE; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 20-5-103,
12 25-1-202, AND 40-6-701, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."
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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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16 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Parental involvement in education. (1) The board of trustees of a
17 school district, in consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, shall develop and adopt a policy to
18 promote the involvement of parents of children enrolled in the school district, including:
19 (a) a plan for parent participation in the school district, which must be designed to improve parent
20 and teacher cooperation in homework, attendance, and discipline;
21 (b) procedures by which a parent may learn about the course of study for the parent's child;
22 (c) procedures by which a parent may withdraw the parent's child from instruction or presentations,
23 assemblies, guest lectures, or other educational events facilitated by a school's faculty or staff, including those
24 conducted by outside individuals or organizations, that offend the parent's beliefs or practices;
25 (d) procedures by which a parent may learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and
26 extracurricular activities that have been approved by the school or that the school is required to allow under the
27 provisions of the federal Equal Access Act of 1984 and may withdraw the parent's child from any club or
28 extracurricular activity. A student shall provide a signed parental permission form prior to participating in any

1 individual's certificate.

2 (4)(6) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

3 (a) "Educational record" means attendance records, test scores of school-administered tests and
4 statewide assessments, grades, extracurricular activity or club participation, e-mail accounts, online or virtual
5 accounts or data, disciplinary records, counseling records, psychological records, applications for admission,
6 teacher and counselor evaluations, reports of behavioral patterns, and health and immunization information,
7 including any medical records maintained by a health clinic or medical facility operated or controlled by the
8 school district or located on district property.

9 (b) "governmental Governmental entity" has the meaning provided in 2-9-101."

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11 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified
12 as an integral part of Title 40, chapter 6, part 7, and the provisions of Title 40, chapter 6, part 7, apply to
13 [sections 1 and 2].

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15 COORDINATION SECTION. Section 7. Coordination instruction. (1) If both House Bill No. 676 and
16 [this act] are passed and approved and both bills amend 40-6-701, then the amendments to 40-6-701(6)
17 contained in [this act] are void.

18 (2) If both House Bill No. 676 and [this act] are passed and approved, then the references in [this
19 act] to "educational record" must be replaced with "education record" and references in [this act] to
20 "governmental entity" must be replaced with "government entity".

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22 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

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