

2023 South Dakota Legislature

Draft 141

Requested by: at the request of the Study Committee on Juvenile Justice

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, To study a potential optional educational path.**

2 WHEREAS, the purpose of education in South Dakota is to provide a learning experience
3 that leads students to become productive and positive contributors to society; and

4 WHEREAS, South Dakota recognizes two certificates for high school completion: a diploma
5 for fulfilling high school graduation requirements and a Graduate Equivalent Diploma (GED)
6 for satisfactory completion of a high school equivalency exam; and

7 WHEREAS, it is compulsory in South Dakota for those under the age of 18 to attend an
8 accredited public or nonpublic school or be provided alternative education; and

9 WHEREAS, as evidenced by South Dakota's graduation rate, some students need a
10 different path to success than the traditional classroom; and

11 WHEREAS, a factor in truancy and classroom disruption is disengagement with learning;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, South Dakota is experiencing a historic low unemployment rate with worker
14 shortages in many sectors; and

15 WHEREAS, many jobs require certificates, licenses, and prior experience in order to work
16 in the field; and

17 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Labor reports a 94% retention rate for
18 individuals enrolled in registered apprenticeship programs available to those 16 to 18 years
19 of age; and

20 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Education reports success with career and
21 technical education as a means to broaden the application of traditional K-12 learning; and

22 WHEREAS, many trade associations are willing partners in programs to expand their
23 employment base;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-
2 Eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the
3 Legislature calls for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary taskforce to explore new
4 alternatives to keep individuals age 16 and older engaged in learning opportunities that lead
5 to high school completion. The taskforce shall report their findings and recommendations to
6 the standing Education committees of the Senate and the House by February 1, 2024.

DRAFT