



2023 South Dakota Legislature
**House Concurrent Resolution
 6001**

SENATE ENGROSSED

Introduced by: **Representatives** Deutsch, Healy, Ernie Otten, Rehfeldt, and Stevens and **Senators** Reed, Schoenfish, Tobin, and Wheeler at the request of the Study Committee on Juvenile Justice

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, To recommend the Executive Board establish a task**
 2 **force to study a potential optional educational path.**

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

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

8 WHEREAS, it is compulsory in South Dakota for those 18 years or younger to attend an
 9 accredited public or nonpublic school or be provided alternative education; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 WHEREAS, many trade associations are willing partners in programs to expand their
4 employment base:

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-
6 Eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the
7 Executive Board of the Legislature should establish a multi-disciplinary task force to explore
8 new alternatives to keep individuals 16 years or older engaged in learning opportunities that
9 lead to high school completion. The Legislature recommends that any task force established
10 by the Executive Board report its findings and recommendations to the standing education
11 committees of the Senate and the House by February 1, 2024.