

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

House Bill Number 326

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Ali Pelletier

House Committee: _____

Authored by: Ali Pelletier

House: _____

Senate Committee: _____

Senate: _____

Delegation: Southwestern Montana Family Y.M.C.A.-Dillon

Governor: _____

Referred to Committee: House Judiciary Committee

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO LOWER THE MONTANA VOTING AGE
2 TO16 YEARS OLD "

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4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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6 **Section 1:** Support: Montana’s teen population is one of the lowest in the nation with only

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8 approximately 70,100 people between the ages of 13 and 19. That’s only 8% of the total

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10 Montana population being represented by an even smaller percent who are allowed to vote,

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12 18-19 year olds.

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14 allowed to vote. The passage of this bill would give the power of a larger political influence to

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16 Montana’s youth.

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18 At the age of 16, many people exhibit the skills to participate in mature relationships, hold a job,

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and form valid opinions on important political issues, just as many adults do.

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The average 16 year old is no better, or no worse, than the average adult in political decision

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making; they are simply equal and thus should be granted equal voting rights.

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Section 2: Effect: This bill will grant all persons in the state of Montana, above the age of 16

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24 the right to register to vote.

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26 **Section 3:** Enactment: This bill will go into effect upon passage.

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-end-

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