



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48  
 2 INTRODUCED BY Guiliani Hoff  
 3 Orville Beck  
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN  
 6 INTERIM STUDY BY THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF  
 7 COMPUTER SERVICES, COMPUTER EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION, AND  
 8 COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN MONTANA STATE GOVERNMENT; AND  
 9 REQUIRING THE COMMITTEE TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE 53RD  
 10 LEGISLATURE.

11  
 12 WHEREAS, information is a costly resource that must be  
 13 managed as other resources, such as money, inventories,  
 14 personnel, and facilities are managed; and

15 WHEREAS, reliable information is the essential  
 16 ingredient in decisionmaking in all branches of government;  
 17 and

18 WHEREAS, the full impact of the computer and the  
 19 influence it has on state government is not obvious; and

20 WHEREAS, that influence is substantial and becomes even  
 21 more so as the use of computers increases; and

22 WHEREAS, while the development of computing and  
 23 communications technology has been dramatic since the end of  
 24 World War II, even more dramatic changes may be expected  
 25 well into the next century as new technologies demand

1 application if state government is to serve the citizenry in  
 2 an effective and efficient manner; and

3 WHEREAS, the Department of Administration has asserted  
 4 that as Montana state government looks to the challenges of  
 5 the 1990s and beyond, it is clear that information and  
 6 communications technology plays a more important role than  
 7 ever before in the delivery of government services; that  
 8 computers of all sizes and capabilities, telecommunications  
 9 systems in government offices and schools, and advanced  
 10 software for management and processing of state government's  
 11 huge information resources will grow in numbers; and that  
 12 our reliance upon them will grow as well; and

13 WHEREAS, information resource management should reflect  
 14 the organizational structure of state government and should  
 15 support and reflect the long-range enterprise strategy of  
 16 the organization and the decision structures that support  
 17 the strategy; and

18 WHEREAS, the Department of Administration is  
 19 responsible, under section 2-17-501, MCA, for planning for  
 20 the operation and development of data processing in state  
 21 government; and

22 WHEREAS, the Legislative Auditor is responsible for  
 23 determining whether the assets of state agencies, including  
 24 their electronic data processing assets, are adequately  
 25 safeguarded and controlled and utilized in an efficient



1 manner; and

2 WHEREAS, the Legislative Auditor has recently undertaken  
3 a statewide review of electronic data processing systems in  
4 state government, focusing on hardware, software, data  
5 processing organizations, and risks associated with the  
6 systems; and

7 WHEREAS, the growing use of computers in Montana state  
8 government is comprising an increasing share of total state  
9 expenditures even as the cost per processing unit decreases;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the Legislature, as the approving authority for  
12 state government expenditures, has a vital interest and need  
13 to understand the information management policy and  
14 strategies of state government and the role of computer and  
15 computer application acquisition and management in those  
16 policies and strategies; and

17 WHEREAS, it is through decisions on appropriations  
18 policy that the Legislature has its principal interaction  
19 with the data processing policies and strategies of state  
20 government; and

21 WHEREAS, the Legislature is aware that some data  
22 processing system applications have failed or necessitated  
23 replacement of costly components; and

24 WHEREAS, the complexity of current data processing  
25 issues, the rapid development of technology, and the

1 criticality of wise investment decisions every biennium, as  
2 they relate to the long-term health of state government,  
3 make it essential that the Legislature be well informed on  
4 state data processing issues.

5  
6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
7 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

8 (1) That the Legislative Finance Committee be requested  
9 to study:

10 (a) whether the Department of Administration has  
11 effectively undertaken its responsibilities in the  
12 development, application, and management of data processing  
13 systems for state government;

14 (b) major applications of computer systems used in  
15 providing significant state services now and in the future;

16 (c) methods of funding investments in information  
17 processing technologies and services in Montana and other  
18 state governments;

19 (d) short- and long-term policy, planning, and  
20 appropriations issues related to state government's  
21 information management policies and strategies; and

22 (e) other necessary issues related to information  
23 management services and costs identified by the Committee.

24 (2) That the Legislative Finance Committee work closely  
25 with and seek the input of the Legislative Audit Committee

1 and the Department of Administration in conducting the  
2 study.

3 (3) That the Legislative Finance Committee report the  
4 findings of the study to the 53rd Legislature, together with  
5 recommendations or options that may have been developed for  
6 consideration by the Legislature.

-End-

APPROVED BY COMM.  
ON LEG. ADMIN.

*HOUSE* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

INTRODUCED BY *Julian Hoff*

*Orin Beck Surgeon*

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY BY THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF COMPUTER SERVICES, COMPUTER EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION, AND COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN MONTANA STATE GOVERNMENT; AND REQUIRING THE COMMITTEE TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE 53RD LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, information is a costly resource that must be managed as other resources, such as money, inventories, personnel, and facilities are managed; and

WHEREAS, reliable information is the essential ingredient in decisionmaking in all branches of government; and

WHEREAS, the full impact of the computer and the influence it has on state government is not obvious; and

WHEREAS, that influence is substantial and becomes even more so as the use of computers increases; and

WHEREAS, while the development of computing and communications technology has been dramatic since the end of World War II, even more dramatic changes may be expected well into the next century as new technologies demand

application if state government is to serve the citizenry in an effective and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Administration has asserted that as Montana state government looks to the challenges of the 1990s and beyond, it is clear that information and communications technology plays a more important role than ever before in the delivery of government services; that computers of all sizes and capabilities, telecommunications systems in government offices and schools, and advanced software for management and processing of state government's huge information resources will grow in numbers; and that our reliance upon them will grow as well; and

WHEREAS, information resource management should reflect the organizational structure of state government and should support and reflect the long-range enterprise strategy of the organization and the decision structures that support the strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Administration is responsible, under section 2-17-501, MCA, for planning for the operation and development of data processing in state government; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Auditor is responsible for determining whether the assets of state agencies, including their electronic data processing assets, are adequately safeguarded and controlled and utilized in an efficient



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3 a statewide review of electronic data processing systems in  
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6 consideration by the Legislature.

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 3 Orin Beck Raymond  
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1 manner; and

2 WHEREAS, the Legislative Auditor has recently undertaken  
3 a statewide review of electronic data processing systems in  
4 state government, focusing on hardware, software, data  
5 processing organizations, and risks associated with the  
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17 WHEREAS, it is through decisions on appropriations  
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21 WHEREAS, the Legislature is aware that some data  
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23 replacement of costly components; and

24 WHEREAS, the complexity of current data processing  
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1 criticality of wise investment decisions every biennium, as  
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19 (d) short- and long-term policy, planning, and  
20 appropriations issues related to state government's  
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22 (e) other necessary issues related to information  
23 management services and costs identified by the Committee.

24 (2) That the Legislative Finance Committee work closely  
25 with and seek the input of the Legislative Audit Committee

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1 and the Department of Administration in conducting the  
2 study.

3 (3) That the Legislative Finance Committee report the  
4 findings of the study to the 53rd Legislature, together with  
5 recommendations or options that may have been developed for  
6 consideration by the Legislature.

-End-

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

INTRODUCED BY QUILICI, THOFT, DRISCOLL,

PECK, SWYSGOOD

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1 with and seek the input of the Legislative Audit Committee  
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4 (3) That the Legislative Finance Committee report the  
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-End-