

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 31

Introduced by Gage

4/15	Introduced
4/15	First Reading
4/15	Referred to Finance & Claims
4/19	Hearing
4/19	Committee Report--Bill Passed
4/20	2nd Reading Passed
4/22	3rd Reading Passed
	Transmitted to House
4/22	First Reading
4/22	Referred to Appropriations
2/42	Hearing
4/24	Tabled in Committee

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31
 2 INTRODUCED BY Rep
 3
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN
 6 INTERIM STUDY OF THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS AND THE METHODS
 7 OF APPROPRIATING FUNDS THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS; AND
 8 REQUIRING A REPORT TO THE 53RD LEGISLATURE OF THE FINDINGS
 9 OF THE STUDY AND OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED AS A RESULT OF THE
 10 STUDY.

11
 12 WHEREAS, in every public budgeting process, there must
 13 be close coordination among the entity's system of revenue
 14 and expenditure accounting and personnel accounting, the
 15 executive budgeting process, and the legislative
 16 appropriations process; and

17 WHEREAS, the State of Montana's current executive
 18 budgeting and legislative appropriations processes are much
 19 closer to being mutually exclusive than to being closely
 20 coordinated; and

21 WHEREAS, the current processes of executive budgeting
 22 and legislative appropriation allow and perhaps encourage
 23 confusion; and

24 WHEREAS, the process followed by the Legislature to
 25 appropriate funds is excessively time-consuming and fraught

1 with unnecessary haggling over insignificant issues; and
 2 WHEREAS, as the process currently exists, the
 3 Legislature, state government generally, and the public are
 4 not served by the arcane, inane, and nugatory appropriations
 5 process adhered to by the Montana Legislature; and

6 WHEREAS, in order to bring about a better process, it is
 7 necessary to examine the failures of the existing process
 8 and to identify options for changing the process for the
 9 better; and

10 WHEREAS, it is recognized by all observers that the
 11 Legislature is loath to change much of anything and
 12 certainly not its own patterns of clinging to tradition for
 13 no purpose other than to honor the tradition, even and
 14 especially to the exclusion of improvement.

15
 16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 17 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

18 That an appropriate interim committee be assigned to
 19 study the state's budget law, generally contained in Title
 20 17, MCA, and particularly as state finances are affected by
 21 general administration policy under Title 17, chapter 1,
 22 MCA; state accounting procedures under Title 17, chapter 2,
 23 MCA; and budgeting and appropriations methods under Title
 24 17, chapter 7, MCA.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study committee begin



LC 1349/01

1 with a careful examination of the treasury fund structure as
2 it currently exists in section 17-2-102, MCA, with the
3 objective of clarifying the fund structure to make it more
4 useful.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study committee develop
6 a list of common definitions to be used in the state's
7 accounting system, in the executive budgeting process, and
8 in the legislative appropriations process.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study committee report
10 its findings, the options considered, and its consensus
11 recommendations to the 53rd Legislature.

-End-

APPROVED BY COMM. ON
FINANCE AND CLAIMS

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21
2 INTRODUCED BY REP

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
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7 OF APPROPRIATING FUNDS THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS; AND
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20 17, MCA, and particularly as state finances are affected by
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22 MCA; state accounting procedures under Title 17, chapter 2,
23 MCA; and budgeting and appropriations methods under Title
24 17, chapter 7, MCA.

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

INTRODUCED BY [Signature]

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WHEREAS, in every public budgeting process, there must be close coordination among the entity's system of revenue and expenditure accounting and personnel accounting, the executive budgeting process, and the legislative appropriations process; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana's current executive budgeting and legislative appropriations processes are much closer to being mutually exclusive than to being closely coordinated; and

WHEREAS, the current processes of executive budgeting and legislative appropriation allow and perhaps encourage confusion; and

WHEREAS, the process followed by the Legislature to appropriate funds is excessively time-consuming and fraught

with unnecessary haggling over insignificant issues; and

WHEREAS, as the process currently exists, the Legislature, state government generally, and the public are not served by the arcane, inane, and nugatory appropriations process adhered to by the Montana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, in order to bring about a better process, it is necessary to examine the failures of the existing process and to identify options for changing the process for the better; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized by all observers that the Legislature is loath to change much of anything and certainly not its own patterns of clinging to tradition for no purpose other than to honor the tradition, even and especially to the exclusion of improvement.

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

That an appropriate interim committee be assigned to study the state's budget law, generally contained in Title 17, MCA, and particularly as state finances are affected by general administration policy under Title 17, chapter 1, MCA; state accounting procedures under Title 17, chapter 2, MCA; and budgeting and appropriations methods under Title 17, chapter 3, MCA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study committee begin

THIRD READING
SJR 31



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