



Approved by Committee  
on State Administration

*Jenkins  
Holmes  
E. Old  
Frater  
Herrick  
J. ...  
F. ...  
Sammy  
Star*

*H* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *13*  
INTRODUCED BY *Falmer, Huerfano, Terley, Johnson, Bono, Country, Hanson, Mitchell, Vincent, Wade, Eastinger, Peterson*

1  
2  
3  
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA EXPRESSING THE FIRM  
6 OPPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MONTANA TO THE PROPOSED  
7 CLOSING OF THE BILLINGS, MONTANA, SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE AND  
8 REQUESTING REVERSAL OF ANY DECISION TO CLOSE THAT OFFICE.

9  
10 WHEREAS, there are more than 100,000 Montanans  
11 receiving some form of monthly Social Security payments at  
12 this time; and

13 WHEREAS, many recipients have been forced to appeal to  
14 the Social Security Administration for adjustment of  
15 benefits; and

16 WHEREAS, these appeals are very complex and take much  
17 time; and

18 WHEREAS, in the past, these cases were handled from  
19 Denver, Colorado, with entirely unsatisfactory results and  
20 delays up to 3 years in duration; and

21 WHEREAS, the Montana Aging Services Bureau and the  
22 Montana Congressional Delegation were able to prevail upon  
23 the Social Security Administration to move an Administrative  
24 Judge to Billings, Montana, so that cases could be heard on  
25 a current basis; and

1 WHEREAS, the Billings office has done an outstanding  
2 job in the past 2 years; and

3 WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration is now  
4 considering closing this office and again servicing Montana  
5 from Denver, Spokane, or North Dakota; and

6 WHEREAS, this would once again make it virtually  
7 impossible for the average Montanan to have a hearing within  
8 a reasonable time.

9  
10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
11 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12 That the Montana Legislature expresses its firm  
13 opposition to the closing of the office of the Social  
14 Security Administration Bureau of Hearings and Appeals in  
15 Billings and requests reversal of any decision that may have  
16 been made to close the office.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution  
18 be sent immediately upon passage to members of the Montana  
19 Congressional Delegation; Senator Frank Church; the  
20 President of the United States, Jimmy Carter; and the  
21 Director of the Social Security Administration.

-End-

*HJR 13*

*[Handwritten signature]*

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

INTRODUCED BY *[Handwritten names: F. Holmes, C. County, S. Ellis, F. Frantz, H. Hovind, J. Jaramila, R. Kistner, S. Lamm, J. P. ...]*

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA EXPRESSING THE FIRM OPPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MONTANA TO THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF THE BILLINGS, MONTANA, SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE AND REQUESTING REVERSAL OF ANY DECISION TO CLOSE THAT OFFICE.

WHEREAS, there are more than 100,000 Montanans receiving some form of monthly Social Security payments at this time; and

WHEREAS, many recipients have been forced to appeal to the Social Security Administration for adjustment of benefits; and

WHEREAS, these appeals are very complex and take much time; and

WHEREAS, in the past, these cases were handled from Denver, Colorado, with entirely unsatisfactory results and delays up to 3 years in duration; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Aging Services Bureau and the Montana Congressional Delegation were able to prevail upon the Social Security Administration to move an Administrative Judge to Billings, Montana, so that cases could be heard on a current basis; and

WHEREAS, the Billings office has done an outstanding job in the past 2 years; and

WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration is now considering closing this office and again servicing Montana from Denver, Spokane, or North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, this would once again make it virtually impossible for the average Montanan to have a hearing within a reasonable time.

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

That the Montana Legislature expresses its firm opposition to the closing of the office of the Social Security Administration Bureau of Hearings and Appeals in Billings and requests reversal of any decision that may have been made to close the office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent immediately upon passage to members of the Montana Congressional Delegation; Senator Frank Church; the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter; and the Director of the Social Security Administration.

-End-

THIRD READING

*HJR 13*

February 3, 1977

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT  
Senate State Administration

That House Joint Resolution No. 13, be amended as follows:

1. Amend title, line 7.

Following: "THE"

Insert: "BUREAU OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION,  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,"

2. Amend page 2, line 13.

Following: "closing of the"

Insert: "Montana"

3. Amend page 2, line 13.

Following: "office of the"

Insert: "Bureau of Hearings and Appeals,"

4. Amend page 2, lines 14 through 16.

Following: "Administation"

Strike: lines 14 through 16

Insert: ", Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and to  
~~DO PASS~~ the servicing of Montana from outside the state of Montana,  
and requests reversal of any decision that may have heretofore been  
made to close said office and the entry of a final decision to retain  
said office."

5. Amend page 2, line 18.

Following: "to"

Strike: "members of"

6. Amend page 2, line 18.

Following: "the"

Strike: "Montana Congressional Delegation; Senator Frank Church;"

Insert: "following:"

7. Amend page 2, line 20.

Following: "Carter;"

Strike: "and"

Insert: "each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation; Senator  
Frank Church; the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education,  
and Welfare;"

8. Amend page 2, line 21.

Following: "Administration"

Insert: "; the Regional Commissioner of Social Security, Denver, Colorado"

AND AS SO AMENDED, BE CONCURRED IN

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

2 INTRODUCED BY PALMER, HUENNEKENS, KESSLER,

3 JOHNSTON, BRAND, COURTNEY, HANSEN, METCALF, VINCENT,

4 UDHE, DASSINGER, ESTENSON, CODNEY, GERKE, GOULD, GUNDERSON,

5 HOLMES, ELLIS, FRATES, HIRSCH, DUSSAULT, FAGG, RAMERIZ, PORTER

6  
7 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA EXPRESSING THE FIRM  
9 OPPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MONTANA TO THE PROPOSED  
10 CLOSING OF THE BUREAU OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS, SOCIAL  
11 SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
12 AND WELFARE, BILLINGS, MONTANA, SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE AND  
13 REQUESTING REVERSAL OF ANY DECISION TO CLOSE THAT OFFICE.

14  
15 WHEREAS, there are more than 100,000 Montanans  
16 receiving some form of monthly Social Security payments at  
17 this time; and

18 WHEREAS, many recipients have been forced to appeal to  
19 the Social Security Administration for adjustment of  
20 benefits; and

21 WHEREAS, these appeals are very complex and take much  
22 time; and

23 WHEREAS, in the past, these cases were handled from  
24 Denver, Colorado, with entirely unsatisfactory results and  
25 delays up to 3 years in duration; and

1 WHEREAS, the Montana Aging Services Bureau and the  
2 Montana Congressional Delegation were able to prevail upon  
3 the Social Security Administration to move an Administrative  
4 Judge to Billings, Montana, so that cases could be heard on  
5 a current basis; and

6 WHEREAS, the Billings office has done an outstanding  
7 job in the past 2 years; and

8 WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration is now  
9 considering closing this office and again servicing Montana  
10 from Denver, Spokane, or North Dakota; and

11 WHEREAS, this would once again make it virtually  
12 impossible for the average Montanan to have a hearing within  
13 a reasonable time.

14  
15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
16 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

17 That the Montana Legislature expresses its firm  
18 opposition to the closing of the MONTANA office of the  
19 BUREAU OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS, Social Security  
20 Administration Bureau of Hearings and Appeals in Billings  
21 and requests reversal of any decision that may have been  
22 made to close the office, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
23 AND WELFARE, AND TO THE SERVICING OF MONTANA FROM OUTSIDE  
24 THE STATE OF MONTANA, AND REQUESTS REVERSAL OF ANY DECISION  
25 THAT MAY HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN MADE TO CLOSE SAID OFFICE AND

1 THE ENTRY OF A FINAL DECISION TO RETAIN SAID OFFICE.  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution  
3 be sent immediately upon passage to members of the Montana  
4 ~~Congressional Delegation Senator Frank Church~~ FOLLOWING:  
5 the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter; and EACH  
6 MEMBER OF THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION; SENATOR  
7 FRANK CHURCH; THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
8 EDUCATION, AND WELFARE; the Director of the Social Security  
9 Administration; THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL  
10 SECURITY, DENVER, COLORADO.

-End-