

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 89
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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT AN
 6 INTERIM COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE STUDY ABOLISHING COUNTY
 7 GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE OF MONTANA AND FULLY CONSIDER
 8 ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS.

10 WHEREAS, counties do not have the right to determine
 11 their own governmental structure in order to serve their
 12 citizens more effectively; and

13 WHEREAS, counties do not have the right to determine
 14 the services needed by their citizens or to provide those
 15 services in a uniform, efficient manner; and

16 WHEREAS, most services are now mandated to be provided
 17 by a multitude of special districts, boards, bureaus, and
 18 commissions with administrative or advisory powers; and

19 WHEREAS, counties are mandated to be solely agents of
 20 the state to provide state services with state control; and

21 WHEREAS, counties do not have the right to develop new
 22 means of financing county government, other than the
 23 traditional property tax; and

24 WHEREAS, the property tax base has been decreased to
 25 the point that it has become overburdened with the demands

1 of education and public assistance.

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

5 That the Committee on Priorities designate the
 6 appropriate standing committee to study the possibility of
 7 abolishing county governments and provide a written report:

8 (1) explaining the present role of county government;

9 (2) explaining the advantages or disadvantages of

10 abolishing county government;

11 (3) determining the savings or increases in
 12 expenditures connected with abolishing counties; and

13 (4) determining a replacement for county government
 14 that would be close to the people, yet large enough to
 15 handle local problems and provide local services.

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