

*Senate* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 47

INTRODUCED BY *Robert Finkbeiner*

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE APPOINTMENT OF A SELECT INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE CORRECTIONAL NEEDS OF THIS STATE AND TO PREPARE A SPECIFIC CORRECTIONAL CONSTRUCTION AND PROGRAM PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Institutions has recommended the appropriation of \$3.8 million for expansion of the state prison to accommodate more prisoners; and

WHEREAS, community correction programs, diversionary programs, and other alternatives to long-term confinement have not been thoroughly explored prior to making that recommendation; and

WHEREAS, both the National Advisory Commission for Criminal Justice and the Corrections Task Force of the Montana Justice Project have stated, as part of their highest priority recommendation in the field of corrections, that further large-scale penal institutions should not be constructed; and

WHEREAS, 98% of the people incarcerated in prison will be returning to society, and it is imperative to the

protection of society that effective treatment programs should be instituted; and

WHEREAS, the projection of prison populations has varied from time to time, and it would be inappropriate to base long-term building decisions on short-term population gains.

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

That the Committee on Priorities shall appoint a select interim study committee composed of four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, no more than two of whom are from the same party, and four members of the Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees, no more than two of whom are from the same party, and that the committee membership shall include but not be limited to members of the Appropriations and Finance and Claims Committees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall make a thorough review and analysis of the correctional needs of this state and prepare a specific correctional construction and program plan for submission to the 46th Legislature.

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Approved by Committee  
on State Administration

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