

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 35

IN THE HOUSE

February 10, 1979

Introduced and referred to
Committee on State
Administration.

February 19, 1979

Committee recommend bill, do
not pass.

February 20, 1979

Report adopted.

1 *House* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *35*
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Manning Cooney* *Paul Ober*
 3 *Reid J. Hager*

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REAFFIRMING THE
 6 INTENT OF THE CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT OF 1975 AND URGING THAT
 7 ITS PROVISIONS BE FULLY ENFORCED.

8
 9 WHEREAS, the Campaign Practices Act enacted by the 44th
 10 Legislature in 1975 (Chapter 480, Laws of 1975) provides a
 11 comprehensive law relating to campaign practices and to the
 12 reporting of contributions and expenditures utilized to
 13 influence the results of elections in Montana and provides
 14 for enforcement of those laws; and

15 WHEREAS, the Campaign Practices Act of 1975 was enacted
 16 in reaction to a public outcry directed at the antique and
 17 obsolete statutes regulating the business of conducting
 18 political campaigns and the total lack of enforcement of
 19 those statutes; and

20 WHEREAS, the Campaign Practices Act of 1975 has now
 21 been in effect for a period of 4 years, during which period
 22 implementation and compliance have fallen short of being
 23 accomplished; and

24 WHEREAS, the ability of the Commissioner of Campaign
 25 Practices to fully effectuate the administrative and

1 enforcement provisions of the Campaign Practices Act of 1975
 2 is directly contingent upon the constitutional question
 3 surrounding his authority to enforce the campaign practice
 4 laws and upon the resources made available to his offices;
 5 and

6 WHEREAS, the failure to administer and enforce the
 7 Campaign Practices Act of 1975 has engendered in the public
 8 a cynicism, mistrust, and even contempt for the campaign
 9 process and the elected officials responsible for ensuring
 10 that the intent of the act be accomplished.

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

14 That the 46th Legislature finds that the maintenance of
 15 the public confidence in the campaign process and its
 16 elected officials through the Campaign Practices Act of 1975
 17 is as essential and worthy of support as when enacted by the
 18 44th Legislature.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 46th Legislature
 20 believes that candidates, political committees, and other
 21 persons involved in the campaign process should now be fully
 22 aware of the provisions of the Campaign Practices Act of
 23 1975 and their responsibilities under that act.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 46th Legislature take
 25 the necessary steps to ensure that the provisions of the

1 Campaign Practices Act of 1975 can be fully effectuated and
2 enforced.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 40th Legislature
4 direct the Commissioner of Campaign Practices to fully
5 enforce the provisions of the Campaign Practices Act of
6 1975.

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