

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54

INTRODUCED BY GOULD, RAMIREZ, SIVERTSEN, KESSLER

IN THE HOUSE

March 8, 1979	Introduced and referred to Committee on Local Government.
March 19, 1979	Committee recommend bill do pass as amended. Report adopted.
March 20, 1979	Printed and placed on members' desks.
March 21, 1979	Second reading, do pass.
March 22, 1979	Considered correctly engrossed.
March 23, 1979	Third reading, passed. Transmitted to second house.

IN THE SENATE

March 24, 1979	Introduced and referred to Committee on Local Government. Committee recommend bill be concurred in. Report adopted.
March 26, 1979	Second reading, concurred in.
March 27, 1979	Third reading, concurred in.

IN THE HOUSE

March 28, 1979	Returned from second house. Concurred in. Sent to enrolling. Reported correctly enrolled.
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House
~~Senate~~ RESOLUTION NO. 54
 INTRODUCED BY Ramsey Linton Reder

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 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA FOR AN INTERIM STUDY
 6 OF MONTANA'S ANNEXATION LAWS.

7
 8 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the people of
 9 Montana to allow municipal growth in an orderly and planned
 10 manner while at the same time maintaining the balance of
 11 interest existing between those living within and those
 12 living outside a municipality's boundaries; and

13 WHEREAS, Montana's present annexation laws were adopted
 14 piecemeal, contain contradictions, and are in need of
 15 revision; and

16 WHEREAS, the piecemeal approach to annexation laws has
 17 not satisfactorily met current needs and has directly
 18 contributed to greater confusion over workable annexation
 19 procedures and processes in numerous Montana communities;
 20 and

21 WHEREAS, in many of Montana's communities existing
 22 annexation laws are causing or contributing to
 23 indiscriminate and disorderly growth patterns; and

24 WHEREAS, in many cases Montana's annexation laws may be
 25 forcing citizens of municipalities to be annexed without the

1 provision of adequate municipal services extended and
 2 provided to them; and

3 WHEREAS, in many communities annexation is viewed
 4 solely as a means to increase the municipal tax base with
 5 little regard for the benefits of those being annexed; and

6 WHEREAS, in other communities annexation is being
 7 frustrated by a confusing tangle of laws that are
 8 contradictory or unworkable; and

9 WHEREAS, the status of fire districts in the event of
 10 annexation should be closely scrutinized, being a
 11 particularly difficult problem related to annexation; and

12 WHEREAS, many communities are facing the problem of
 13 uncontrolled urban sprawl with many people residing on the
 14 perimeter of the municipality not within the corporate
 15 boundaries but deriving many benefits from the municipality
 16 without paying their fair share for these services; and

17 WHEREAS, the numerous annexation-related bills
 18 introduced in the 46th Legislature indicate a statewide
 19 concern for the inadequacies of Montana's present annexation
 20 laws.

21
 22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 23 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

24 (1) That the Committee on Priorities assign to an
 25 appropriate interim committee a study of all laws relating

-2- HJR 54
 INTRODUCED BILL

1 to annexation to identify conflicts, duplications, and
2 inadequacies and to prepare appropriate legislation for the
3 47th Legislature that will provide Montana with a statutory
4 framework which insures a comprehensive and workable
5 approach to annexation.

6 (2) That the committee consult with the Department of
7 Community Affairs, local governmental officials, and
8 interested citizens during the course of the study.

9 (3) That the committee study various methods for
10 resolving identified problems and examine alternatives used
11 in other states for reasonable annexation procedures.

12 (4) That the committee report its findings,
13 recommendations, and appropriate remedial legislation to the
14 47th Legislature.

-End-

Approved by Comm.
on Local Government

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WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the people of Montana to allow municipal growth in an orderly and planned manner while at the same time maintaining the balance of interest existing between those living within and those living outside a municipality's boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Montana's present annexation laws were adopted piecemeal, contain contradictions, and are in need of revision; and

WHEREAS, the piecemeal approach to annexation laws has not satisfactorily met current needs and has directly contributed to greater confusion over workable annexation procedures and processes in numerous Montana communities; and

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WHEREAS, in other communities annexation is being frustrated by a confusing tangle of laws that are contradictory CONTRADICTIONY or unworkable; and

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