

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

IN THE HOUSE

March 27, 1979

Introduced and referred to
Committee on Rules.

April 19, 1979

On motion, taken from
Committee on Rules and referred
to second reading this day.

Second reading, do pass.

Third reading, passed.

IN THE SENATE

April 20, 1979

Introduced and referred to
Committee on Rules.

Died in Committee.

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63
 2 INTRODUCED BY Walter Ramsey, Dick Marks

3
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING
 6 ASSIGNMENT OF AN INTERIM STUDY OF LEGISLATIVE STAFFING
 7 PROBLEMS, PROCEDURAL STANDARDIZATION IN LEGISLATIVE WORK,
 8 PROBLEMS WITH ASSIGNMENT OF LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEES, AND MEANS
 9 OF IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS FOR LEGISLATORS AND STAFF.

10
 11 WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature attempts to meet in
 12 such a manner every other year as to conduct its business in
 13 the minimum possible time; and

14 WHEREAS, each session a sizable temporary staff is
 15 hired to assist in conducting the business of the session;
 16 and

17 WHEREAS, the facilities provided for both temporary
 18 staff and legislators are inadequate to promote
 19 concentration and quality work; and

20 WHEREAS, the great stress resulting from these
 21 conditions is deleterious to the health of nearly everyone
 22 associated with the Legislature; and

23 WHEREAS, there is a need to analyze the tasks required
 24 to support the legislative process and to standardize
 25 procedures among committees and to align staff support more

1 closely with the required tasks.

2
 3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 4 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

5 (1) That an interim study be assigned to address
 6 problems of legislative staff organization, clarification
 7 and standardization of procedures, and improvement of
 8 working conditions for legislative staff and legislators.

9 (2) That the study shall include at least the
 10 following:

11 (a) analysis of the Legislature's operational,
 12 administrative, and clerical procedures and formats with a
 13 goal of developing standard procedures and formats that are
 14 clearly outlined in rules or other appropriate documents;

15 (b) analysis of legislative records, including
 16 committee minutes, to develop standard rules and plan for
 17 adequate staffing for keeping minutes and other records;

18 (c) analysis of staffing patterns on the rostrum, in
 19 the offices of the Chief Clerk of the House and Secretary of
 20 the Senate, in the steno pools, and among the committee
 21 secretary positions to correct problems of overstaffing in
 22 some areas and understaffing in others;

23 (d) analysis of working conditions and space
 24 requirements for legislators and staff to determine whether
 25 there are means to achieve more efficient and humane working

1 conditions for all.

2 (3) That in conducting the study, the committee shall
3 meet with persons representing all levels of legislative
4 staffing to obtain a comprehensive view of problems
5 encountered by staff.

6 (4) That the committee conducting this study shall
7 meet with the Joint Rules and Legislative Administration
8 Committees appointed at presession caucuses in 1980 and
9 before December 15, 1980, to discuss its recommendations to
10 those committees for implementation in the 47th Legislature.

-End-

House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *63*
INTRODUCED BY *Walter Ramsey, Dick Metz*

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HJR 63
THIRD READING

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