

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

Introduced: 03/25/83

Referred to Committee on Human Services: 03/25/83

Hearing: 4/4/83

Died in Committee

1 *McLainich House* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *37* *Nixon*  
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Erinell DOR Felt*  
 3 *Baynton* *Sandra Kitchmond* *Williams Pistoria*  
 4 *Wally Johnson* *John Williams* *Nadja Williams*  
 5 *John Williams* *Pauline Williams* *Donna Miller*  
 6 *Bertheen Tuset*

7 INTERIM COMMITTEE BE ASSIGNED TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
 8 OFFERING THE COMPLETE COURSEWORK FOR A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE  
 9 IN NURSING AT THE EXTENDED CAMPUSES OF THE MONTANA STATE  
 10 UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF NURSING AND TO STUDY THE NEED FOR  
 11 MORE CLINICAL TRAINING WITHIN THE NURSING DEGREE PROGRAM.

12 WHEREAS, a baccalaureate degree in nursing, available  
 13 only through the Montana State University's (M.S.U.) School  
 14 of Nursing, cannot be obtained at any one location in the  
 15 Montana university system because 17 basic credits of the  
 16 curriculum are offered only at the M.S.U. campus and the  
 17 upper level clinical nursing training is offered only at  
 18 extended campuses in Great Falls, Butte, Missoula, and  
 19 Billings; and

20 WHEREAS, this situation requires that every person who  
 21 wishes to complete a degree program in nursing must spend  
 22 additional time and money in completing the programs at two  
 23 locations; and

24 WHEREAS, persons working toward nursing degrees in  
 25 Montana may have to make tremendous personal sacrifices,

1 such as job loss and time away from family and home  
 2 responsibilities, to complete their education; and

3 WHEREAS, many qualified persons, especially  
 4 nontraditional students, who could graduate with nursing  
 5 degrees and could contribute to the critical need for  
 6 trained medical personnel in Montana are discouraged from  
 7 participation by the present fragmented educational program  
 8 in nursing; and

9 WHEREAS, the current attrition rate for nursing degree  
 10 students in Montana is high; and

11 WHEREAS, recent studies of the feasibility of offering  
 12 the basic credits now only available at M.S.U. at the  
 13 established extended campuses have been conducted by  
 14 university system staff and have left unanswered many  
 15 important questions and concerns; and

16 WHEREAS, many nursing program graduates are concerned  
 17 with the need for more clinical training and fewer unrelated  
 18 college course requirements within the baccalaureate program  
 19 for a nursing degree.

20  
 21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
 22 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

23 (1) That an appropriate interim committee be assigned  
 24 to study the feasibility of offering the basic coursework  
 25 now available only at M.S.U. School of Nursing also at the

1 extended campuses at Great Falls, Butte, Missoula, and  
2 Billings so that qualified persons may acquire nursing  
3 degrees from a single location;

4 (2) That the interim committee review and critique  
5 previous studies on the feasibility and cost of offering the  
6 required M.S.U. coursework at the extended campuses;

7 (3) That the interim committee investigate whether:

8 (a) the requirements that some coursework be completed  
9 at M.S.U. contributes to the high attrition rate among  
10 nursing students, especially among nontraditional students;  
11 and

12 (b) the present staff and facilities at the extended  
13 campuses would be adequate to provide the required M.S.U.  
14 coursework, thus reducing projected costs of expanding the  
15 nursing degree program to other locations;

16 (4) That the interim committee encourage testimony  
17 from the medical community as a whole to determine if  
18 greater emphasis should be placed on clinical training in  
19 the nursing degree program; and

20 (5) That the interim committee submit a report of its  
21 findings and recommendations to the 49th Legislature.

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