

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 27

Introduced by McCarthy, et al.

3/31 Introduced
3/31 Referred to Appropriations
3/31 First Reading
4/05 Hearing
4/06 Hearing
4/07 Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended
4/12 2nd Reading Passed
4/13 3rd Reading Passed

Transmitted to Senate
4/15 First Reading
4/15 Referred to Finance & Claims
4/19 Hearing
4/19 Committee Report--Bill Concurred
4/20 2nd Reading Concurred
4/21 3rd Reading Concurred

Returned to House
4/24 Signed by Speaker
4/24 Signed by President
4/26 Filed with Secretary of State

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27
 2 INTRODUCED BY Rep. McCarthy, Lisker, Carlsmith
 3 Hamilton, Davis, Menahan, Endy, Cave Brown,
 4 Salatin, Smith, Layne, Jimpfimer, Back, Taylor,
 5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN
 7 INTERIM STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF MONTANA VETERANS; AND
 8 REQUIRING A REPORT OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
 9 STUDY TO THE 54TH LEGISLATURE.

10 WHEREAS, Montana has the third highest per capita number
 11 of veterans in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, 26%, or 26,291, of Montana's veterans are 65
 13 years of age or older; and

14 WHEREAS, Montana currently provides a total of 175 beds
 15 for veterans who require nursing home care, which are
 16 insufficient to provide for the nursing care needs of
 17 Montana's veterans; and

18 WHEREAS, federal guidelines suggest that Montana needs
 19 between 255 and 408 state nursing home beds, and the
 20 guidelines provide that these beds can be built and operated
 21 with federal funding assistance from the federal Department
 22 of Veterans Affairs; and

23 WHEREAS, the state veterans' nursing home at Columbia
 24 Falls serves veterans in northwestern Montana and the state
 25 veterans' nursing home at Miles City serves veterans in

1 eastern Montana, leaving southwestern and central Montana
 2 unserved, and the area of Deer Lodge and Silver Bow Counties
 3 would provide an ideal location in which to establish a
 4 state veterans' nursing home that is accessible to veterans
 5 in the southwestern and central regions of Montana; and

6 WHEREAS, the 1993 Legislature has made some drastic
 7 policy decisions regarding the care of veterans, and the
 8 changes must be studied to determine if they fulfill the
 9 needs of Montana veterans and if they reflect a new
 10 direction in the state's policy on veterans' care or if the
 11 traditional policy should be pursued; and

12 WHEREAS, consideration of shifting 2 cents of the tax on
 13 cigarettes revenue from capital construction to operational
 14 expenses reflects a change in state policy; and

15 WHEREAS, another change in state policy has been
 16 considered that would allow the use of insurance to pay for
 17 community-based, long-term nursing care or home health care,
 18 rather than providing for additional long-term nursing care
 19 in state-owned facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, the 1993 Legislature has postponed
 21 appropriating money to build a veterans' nursing home in
 22 Glendive, which was determined to be necessary by the 1989
 23 Legislature; and

24 WHEREAS, there may be a significant effect on the health
 25 care of veterans because of changes in national health care

1 policy.

2

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

5 That the Legislative Council assign an interim committee
6 to study the needs of Montana veterans and that the study
7 include:

8 (1) the feasibility of providing long-term nursing home
9 care and home health care as it relates to Montana veterans
10 and the role of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs;

11 (2) a review of the extent of access, geographically
12 and otherwise, of veterans to health and nursing home care
13 within Montana;

14 (3) the continuum of veterans' services available
15 throughout the state, identification of gaps in the
16 services, and determination of the role and potential for
17 federally funded veterans' programs in Montana; and

18 (4) a review of state policy regarding veterans'
19 affairs and the development of recommendations to further
20 clarify state policy guidelines relative to veterans'
21 affairs.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee may
23 request staff assistance and information from the Department
24 of Military Affairs, the Veterans' Affairs Division, the
25 Department of Corrections and Human Services, and other

1 legislative or executive agencies that may have information
2 relevant to veterans' affairs.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council
4 appoint the membership of the interim committee in a manner
5 similar to that which follows:

6 (1) four members of the Senate, including one
7 republican senator from northeastern Montana, one democratic
8 senator from southeastern Montana, one republican senator
9 from southwestern Montana, and one democratic senator from
10 northwestern Montana; and

11 (2) four members of the House of Representatives,
12 including one democratic representative from northeastern
13 Montana, one republican representative from southeastern
14 Montana, one democratic representative from southwestern
15 Montana, and one republican representative from northwestern
16 Montana.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee
18 report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the
19 54th Legislature.

-End-

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

INTRODUCED BY MCCARTHY, QUILICI, PAVLOVICH,
HARRINGTON, DAILY, MENAHAN, ENDY, D. BROWN,
GALVIN, SMITH, HAYNE, J. JOHNSON, VAUGHN,
BECK, LYNCH, JACOBSON

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WHEREAS, Montana has the third highest per capita number
of veterans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 26%, or 26,291, of Montana's veterans are 65
years of age or older; and

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beds for veterans who require nursing home care, which are
insufficient to provide for the nursing care needs of
Montana's veterans; and

WHEREAS, federal guidelines suggest that Montana needs
between 255 and 408 state nursing home beds, and the
guidelines provide that these beds can be built and operated
with federal funding assistance from the federal Department
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WHEREAS, the state veterans' nursing home at Columbia
Falls serves veterans in northwestern Montana and the state
veterans' nursing home at Miles City serves veterans in
eastern Montana, leaving southwestern and central Montana
unserved, and the area of Deer Lodge and Silver Bow Counties
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state veterans' nursing home that is accessible to veterans
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WHEREAS, the 1993 Legislature has made some drastic
CONSIDERED SUBSTANTIAL policy decisions regarding the care
of veterans, and the changes must be studied to determine if
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care or if the traditional policy should be pursued; and

WHEREAS, consideration of shifting 2 cents of the tax on
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ~~Legislative Council~~
7 ~~appoint the membership of the interim committee in a manner~~
8 ~~similar to that which follows:~~

9 ~~{1}--four--members--of--the--Senate--including--one~~
10 ~~republican--senator--from--northeastern--Montana--one--democratic~~
11 ~~senator--from--southeastern--Montana--one--republican--senator~~
12 ~~from--southwestern--Montana--and--one--democratic--senator--from~~
13 ~~northwestern--Montana--and~~

14 ~~{2}--four--members--of--the--House--of--Representatives,~~
15 ~~including--one--democratic--representative--from--northeastern~~
16 ~~Montana--one--republican--representative--from--southeastern~~
17 ~~Montana--one--democratic--representative--from--southwestern~~
18 ~~Montana--and--one--republican--representative--from--northwestern~~
19 ~~Montana. INTERIM COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED IN THE MANNER~~
20 ~~PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 5-5-211, MCA.~~

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee
22 report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the
23 54th Legislature.

-End-

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3 HARRINGTON, DAILY, MENAHAN, ENDY, D. BROWN,
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16 years of age or older; and

17 WHEREAS, Montana currently provides a total of 175 90
18 beds for veterans who require nursing home care, which are
19 insufficient to provide for the nursing care needs of
20 Montana's veterans; and

21 WHEREAS, federal guidelines suggest that Montana needs
22 between 255 and 408 state nursing home beds, and the
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24 with federal funding assistance from the federal Department
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1 WHEREAS, the state veterans' nursing home at Columbia
2 Falls serves veterans in northwestern Montana and the state
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4 eastern Montana, leaving southwestern and central Montana
5 unserved, and the area of Deer Lodge and Silver Bow Counties
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