SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

Introduced by Gage

- 12/28 Introduced
- 1/02 Referred to Local Government
- 1/04 First Reading
- 1/14 Hearing
- 1/20 Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended
- 1/21 2nd Reading Passed
- 1/22 3rd Reading Passed

Transmitted to House

- 1/23 First Reading
- 1/23 Referred to Local Government
- 3/04 Hearing
- 3/04 Tabled in Committee

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5 1 fund the number of county offices currently beina 1 INTRODUCED BY GAGE 2 maintained; and 2 3 WHEREAS, the Legislature is uniquely gualified to 3 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF 4 address the questions of county consolidation and county 4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN 5 office consolidation from a statewide perspective and to 5 INTERIM STUDY OF COUNTY CONSOLIDATION AND REORGANIZATION AND 6 determine what factors should be considered in developing a 6 7 CONSOLIDATION OF COUNTY OFFICES WITHIN A COUNTY AND BETWEEN 7 statewide plan for consolidation and reorganization. 8 COUNTIES: AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE 8 9 9 STUDY TO THE 54TH LEGISLATURE. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE 10 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: 10 WHEREAS, the citizens of Montana recognize the economic 11 That an appropriate interim committee be assigned to 11 reality of limited financial resources within the state; and 12 study: 12 WHEREAS, the taxpayers of Montana are supporting more 13 (1) the consolidation and reorganization of counties, 13 county governments than are needed for efficient management 14 14 taking into consideration the following factors: of local affairs: and 15 (a) existing county boundaries; 15 WHEREAS, 28 Montana counties were formed between 1910 16 existing legislative districts: 16 (b) and 1925 without the benefit of a comprehensive plan; and 17 geographic features; 17 (0) 18 WHEREAS, Article XI, section 3, of the Montana 18 transportation routes and market areas: (d) 19 Constitution allows a county government to have as many as 19 social, economic, and natural resources: (e) 20 13 elected officials; and 20 population distribution; (£) 21 WHEREAS, many sparsely populated counties do not require 21 taxable valuation; and (q) 22 the number of elective positions allowed by the Montana 22 other relevant factors: and (h) 23 Constitution in order to maintain an adequate level of 23 (2) the consolidation of county offices within and 24 services; and 24 between counties, taking into consideration the following 25 WHEREAS, many counties lack the revenue to adequately 25 factors:

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1 (a) current duties of county officers; (b) statutory duties of county officers; 2 (c) qualifications for various county officers; 3 (d) existing levels of service within counties; 4 5 (e) financial support necessary to operate current offices; 6 7 (f) available telecommunications technology; and 8 (g) other relevant factors. 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee 10 report the findings of the study to the 54th Legislature and present options for legislative consideration if the 11 12 committee determines that options are necessary.

-End-

53rd Legislature

APPROVED BY COMM. ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1	SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5	l fund the number of county offices currently bein
2	INTRODUCED BY GAGE	2 maintained; and
3		3 WHEREAS, the Legislature is uniquely qualified t
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF	4 address the questions of county consolidation-and-count
5	REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN	5 office-consolidation <u>GOVERNMENT</u> from a statewide perspective
6	INTERIM STUDY OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING CONSOLIDATION	6 and to determine what factors should be considered i
7	AND REORGANIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF COUNTY OFFICES	7 developing a statewide plan for consolidation an
8	WITHIN A COUNTY AND BETWEEN COUNTIES; AND REQUIRING A REPORT	8 reorganization.
9	OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 54TH LEGISLATURE.	9
10		10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUS
11	WHEREAS, the citizens of Montana recognize the economic	11 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
12	reality of limited financial resources within the state; and	12 That an appropriate interim committee be assigned t
13	WHEREASythetaxpayersof-Montana-are-supporting-more	13 study:
14	county-governments-than-are-needed-for-efficientmanagement	14 (1) the consolidation-andreorganization ORGANIZATIO
15	of-local-affairs;-and	15 of counties, taking into consideration the followir
16	WHEREAS, 28 Montana counties were formed between 1910	16 factors:
17	and 1925 without the benefit of a comprehensive plan; and	<pre>17 (a) existing county boundaries;</pre>
18	WHEREAS, Article XI, section 3, of the Montana	<pre>18 (b) existing legislative districts;</pre>
19	Constitution allows a county government to have as many as	19 (c) geographic features;
20	13 elected officials; and	20 (d) transportation routes and market areas;
21	WHEREAS, many sparsely populated counties do not require	21 (e) social, economic, and natural resources;
22	the number of elective positions allowed by the Montana	<pre>22 (f) population distribution;</pre>
23	Constitution in order to maintain an adequate level of	23 (g) taxable valuation; and
24	services; and	24 (h) other relevant factors; and
25	WHEREAS, many counties lack the revenue to adequately	25 (2) the consolidation ORGANIZATION of county office

25 WHEREAS, many counties lack the revenue to adequately

Bontana Legislative Council

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SJR 5 SECOND READING

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1	withinandbetween-counties, taking into consideration the
2	following factors:
3	(a) current duties of county officers;
4	(b) statutory duties of county officers;
5	(c) qualifications for various county officers;
6	(d) existing levels of service within counties;
7	(e) financial support necessary to operate current
8	offices;
9	(f) available telecommunications technology; and
10	(g) other relevant factors; AND
11	(3) THE CONSOLIDATION AND REORGANIZATION OF COUNTIES
12	AND COUNTY OFFICES BASED ON THE FACTORS IN SUBSECTIONS (1)
13	<u>AND (2)</u> .
14	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee
15	report the findings of the study to the 54th Legislature and
16	present options for legislative consideration if the
17	committee determines that options are necessary.

-End-

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fund the number of county offices currently being 1 1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5 maintained; and INTRODUCED BY GAGE 7 2 WHEREAS, the Legislature is uniquely qualified 3 3 address the questions of county consolidation-and-county A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE 4 4 OF office-consolidation GOVERNMENT from a statewide perspective REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN 5 5 and to determine what factors should be considered in INTERIM STUDY OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING CONSOLIDATION б 6 7 developing a statewide plan for consolidation and AND REORGANIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF COUNTY OFFICES 7 8 WITHIN A COUNTY AND BETWEEN COUNTIES; AND REQUIRING A REPORT 8 reorganization. 9 OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 54TH LEGISLATURE. 9 10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE 10 11 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: 11 WHEREAS, the citizens of Montana recognize the economic That an appropriate interim committee be assigned to 12 12 reality of limited financial resources within the state; and 13 WHEREASy--the--taxpayers--of-Montana-are-supporting-more 13 study: 14 (1) the consolidation-and--reorganization ORGANIZATION 14 county-governments-then-are-needed-for-efficient--management 15 of counties, taking into consideration the following 15 of-local-affairs:-and 16 factors: 16 WHEREAS, 28 Montana counties were formed between 1910 17 17 existing county boundaries; and 1925 without the benefit of a comprehensive plan; and (a) 18 WHEREAS, Article XI, section 3, of the 18 (b) existing legislative districts; Montana 19 geographic features; 19 Constitution allows a county government to have as many as (c) 20 (d) transportation routes and market areas; 20 13 elected officials; and 21 WHEREAS, many sparsely populated counties do not require 21 social, economic, and natural resources; (e) 22 the number of elective positions allowed by the Montana 22 (f) population distribution: 23 23 Constitution in order to maintain an adequate level of (g) taxable valuation; and 24 services; and 24 (h) other relevant factors; and

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25 WHEREAS, many counties lack the revenue to adequately

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(2) the consolidation ORGANIZATION of county offices

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THIRD READING

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to

1	withinandbetween-counties, taking into consideration the
2	following factors:
3	(a) current duties of county officers;
4	(b) statutory duties of county officers;
5	(c) qualifications for various county officers;
б	(d) existing levels of service within counties;
7	(e) financial support necessary to operate current
8	offices;
9	(f) available telecommunications technology; and
10	(g) other relevant factors <u>; AND</u>
11	(3) THE CONSOLIDATION AND REORGANIZATION OF COUNTIES
12	AND COUNTY OFFICES BASED ON THE FACTORS IN SUBSECTIONS (1)
13	AND (2).
14	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee
15	report the findings of the study to the 54th Legislature and
16	present options for legislative consideration if the
17	committee determines that options are necessary.

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