

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

Introduced by Raney

11/23	Introduced
11/24	Referred to Business & Economic Development
11/29	First Reading
12/01	Hearing
12/01	Tabled in Committee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

INTRODUCED BY RANEY

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING PRACTICES AND TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF ITS REVIEW TO THE 54TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the licensing boards of the Professional and Occupational Licensing Bureau of the Department of Commerce license more than 40 separate professions and occupations; and

WHEREAS, regulation of some professions and occupations is of little public interest and is essentially a private matter for the members of the particular profession or occupation; and

WHEREAS, the state should not be involved in professional and occupational licensing matters that are primarily of a private nature and should be seeking ways to reduce state involvement in private business matters in order to reduce licensing fees and reduce state expenses; and

WHEREAS, it may be appropriate to withdraw state

authority in some licensing matters altogether, consolidate other licensing functions within the Department of Commerce, or consolidate within one professional and occupational licensing board certain functions that are now accomplished by several boards, and it may be appropriate to require that licensing boards adopt more efficient practices; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce should conduct a review of the licensing practices and costs of the Department and the professional and occupational licensing boards within the Department and report its findings to the 54th Legislature.

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

That the Department of Commerce conduct a study of the professional and occupational licensing functions of the Department and the licensing boards within the Department to determine if there are state expenses and licensing fees that could be saved by changes to professional and occupational licensing practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the review by the Department of Commerce should concentrate on ways to reduce state involvement in licensing practices and thereby reduce fees collected from licensees without a reduction in services to or protection of the public.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the review should determine
2 whether it is necessary for the state to be involved in the
3 licensing of some or all occupations and professions
4 currently licensed by the state; whether some functions now
5 done by licensing boards could be done more efficiently by
6 the private sector, be done more efficiently by the
7 Department itself, or be consolidated within other existing
8 licensing boards; and whether the size of some boards or the
9 amount of compensation and reimbursement paid to board
10 members could be reduced.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the review should also
12 consider more efficient ways for the Department and boards
13 to, conduct business, such as by use of telephone conference
14 calls and the state bulletin board system.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the findings and
16 recommendations of the Department resulting from its review,
17 together with any draft legislation necessary to implement
18 the Department's recommendations, be presented to the 54th
19 Legislature in writing on or before November 15, 1994.

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