

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

2 INTRODUCED BY HAINES, FRANKLIN, BISHOP, P. CLARK

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS, IN COOPERATION
6 WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN
7 SERVICES, CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION OF EXOTIC WILDLIFE AND
8 REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE 58TH
9 LEGISLATURE.

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11 WHEREAS, there is an escalating international trend of possession and trade in exotic wildlife for
12 personal use as well as for commercial purposes; and

13 WHEREAS, the introduction of some exotic wildlife into Montana may have undesirable or
14 damaging effects on native wildlife and plant species, agricultural production, and human health and
15 safety; and

16 WHEREAS, in order to minimize or avoid economic, ecological, and human health and safety
17 impacts from some exotic wildlife, it may be necessary to control the importation into Montana and
18 possession in Montana of exotic wildlife; and

19 WHEREAS, the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Department of Agriculture, the
20 Department of Livestock, and the Department of Public Health and Human Services have longstanding
21 involvement in and statutory obligations regarding the protection of native wildlife and plants, agricultural
22 production, and human health and safety.

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

26 (1) That the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, in cooperation with the Departments of
27 Agriculture, Livestock, and Public Health and Human Services, be requested to give priority to a study of
28 the following issues:

29 (a) evaluation of the threats that exotic wildlife may pose to the State of Montana;

30 (b) evaluation of laws that protect Montana from the importation and possession of potentially

1 harmful exotic wildlife;

2 (c) evaluation of the successful and efficient implementation of laws from other states addressing
3 importation and possession of exotic wildlife;

4 (d) compilation of a list of specific exotic wildlife that poses a threat or potential threat; and

5 (e) identification of possible solutions for the State of Montana to minimize the potentially harmful
6 impacts of the importation and possession of exotic wildlife.

7 (2) That the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, in cooperation with the Departments of
8 Agriculture, Livestock, and Public Health and Human Services, convene a working group of various
9 stakeholders to assist the Departments in evaluating the issues listed in subsection (1).

10 (3) That the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, in cooperation with the Departments of
11 Agriculture, Livestock, and Public Health and Human Services, actively solicit the participation of groups
12 and individuals whose activities include the importation or possession of exotic wildlife, of Montana
13 citizens, of state and local officials, and of any other persons or groups with interest in the outcome of
14 the study.

15 (4) That the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, in cooperation with the Departments of
16 Agriculture, Livestock, and Public Health and Human Services, be requested to:

17 (a) prepare, by October 1, 2002, a report of its findings and conclusions regarding the importation
18 or possession of exotic wildlife; and

19 (b) identify options and make recommendations, including suggestions for legislation if appropriate,
20 to the Governor and the 58th Legislature.

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