

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

INTRODUCED BY D. BROWN

BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE STATE ADMINISTRATION STANDING COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY BILL DRAFT REQUEST AND BILL INTRODUCTION LIMITS AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 59TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, 2,153 bills have been requested as of February 10, 2003; and

WHEREAS, 384 of the bills were by request of state agencies; and

WHEREAS, some legislators may be asked to carry a disproportionately large number of agency bills;

and

WHEREAS, the large number of bills requested affects the efficiency and effectiveness of the legislative process and makes prioritization essential; and

WHEREAS, many states have imposed limits not only on the number of bills that may be requested but also on the number of bills that may be introduced.

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

That the Legislative Council be requested to:

(1) examine the number of bills that legislators request and introduce, including the number of bills introduced by request of state agencies;

(2) review the bill draft request and bill introduction limits imposed in other states, including provisions for exceptions;

(3) consider options for improving how the Montana Legislature manages bill draft requests and bill introductions with special attention to:

(a) staff workload in preparing bill drafts for introduction;

(b) the workload of individual legislators who introduce numerous bills each legislative session; and

(c) the impact of the legislative workload on the effectiveness and efficiency of the legislative process;

1 (4) develop, by September 15, 2004, recommendations concerning bill draft request and bill introduction
2 limits, including what exceptions, if any, should be authorized and how; and

3 (5) report its findings and recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the 59th
4 Legislature.

5 - END -